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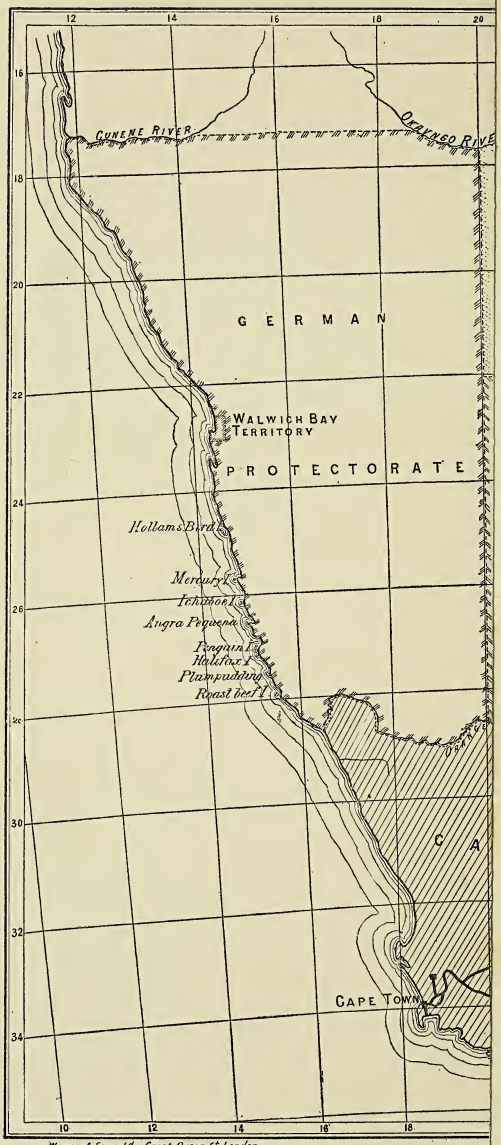
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PORTRAIT OF THE AUTHOR.



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THROUGH MATABELELAND:

The Record of

A TEN MONTHS' TRIP IN AN OX-WAGON

THROUGH

Mashonaland and Matabeleland.

BY

JOSEPH GARBETT WOOD, M.L.A.,

Col. of Colonial Forces.

J. C. JUTA & CO.,

CAPETOWN, PORT ELIZABETH, & JOHANNESBURG.

1893.

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE OF THE AUTHOR.

Mr. Joseph Wood was born in the city of Grahamstown, Cape Colony. His father, the Hon Geo. Wood, Member of the Legislative Council of the Cape of Good Hope, was one of the principal merchants of the colony, and gave his sons all the advantages of education possible. It was at Salem that Joseph Wood went to school, and after he had completed his education entered his father's office. Subsequently, he commenced farming at Howison's Pont, but eventually moved to Bathurst, where his best efforts were used for the progress and prosperity of Lower Albany. An excellent Volunteer Corps was organised, of which he became Colonel. Subsequently he served as a Captain of Yeomanry during the Morosi rebellion of 1878, and was known not only as a brave soldier, but as an officer who carefully looked after the comfort and safety of his men. It was Mr. Joseph Wood who first established the successful culture of subtropical fruits in Lower Albany and introduced wire fencing.

Mr. Wood represented Albany in the House of Assembly from 1879 to 1887, in which latter year his seat was declared vacant in consequence of his absence in Matabeleland. He did not ask for leave of absence, or probably it would have been granted. As a Member of the Colonial Parliament he obtained in 1883 a Select Committee of Agriculture and Colonial Industries, and generally throughout his career used his best energies for the promotion of the advancement and prosperity of his country. He was a favourite among both Dutch and English members during the time he was a member of the House. As a Town Councillor of his native city he was indefatigable, and worked with both zeal and ability for the prosperity of Grahamstown. He died in harness, and on the motion of Mr. Sampson, an old Colonial warrior, seconded by Major Nesbitt, it was unanimously resolved by the Town Council: "That it hereby records its profound feelings of sorrow for the untimely decease of Mr. Councillor Joseph Garbett Wood, and its strong recognition of the fact that in him it has lost a most amiable and estimable member, and the general community of Grahamstown one of the foremost and most upright and intelligent of its citizens; and that a letter be addressed to the widow expressing the intense sympathy which the Council entertains for her in her bereavement."

PREFATORY NOTE.

A PLAIN unvarnished record is given in the following pages of the adventures of the Wood, Francis, and Chapman syndicate in Matabeleland. The transactions at the court of Lobengula and what was actually seen in the new Gold country of Mashonaland, cannot fail to be interesting. My acknowledgments are due, for editorial assistance, to the Hon. A. Wilmot, M.L.C., who was the means of having Mr. Baines' "South-Eastern Africa" published.

JOS. G. WOOD.

Grahamstown,
December, 1891.

THROUGH MATABELELAND AND MASHONALAND.

CHAPTER I.

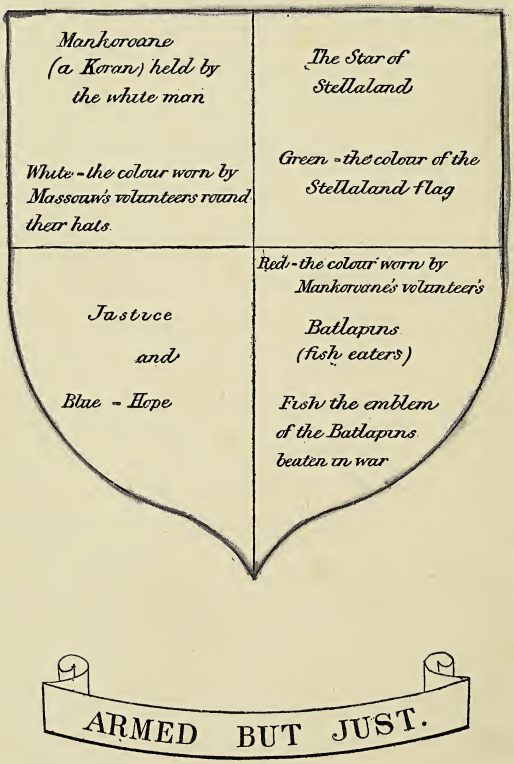
On Tuesday, 23rd March, we left Grahamstown, Eastern districts, Cape Colony, for Matabeleland and Mashonaland. Kimberley was our first stage, and there horses were cheap because of the prevailing horse sickness. We obtained a span of fairly good trek oxen at £5 10s. each and left Diamondopolis on the 29th March. Strange to say, we found the cold unexpectedly great, and the night of our first outspan was one of the coldest we had experienced in South Africa. Barkly West, on the Vaal River, was reached on the Saturday morning (30th). Ichabod

is legibly written up here, and where hundreds once washed for diamonds at Pniel, we only saw one solitary native at work. Here we had to wire for permission, which was granted, to pass through Bechuanaland with arms and ammunition. Although the country in the Barkly West district looked well, nothing but trek oxen were to be seen grazing. The prickly grass prevents the possibility of sheep farming being successful, and the sharp character of the herbage forces all the natives to wear boots or shoes.

Muller's outspan was the first station from Barkly, and here we got good grass and water at a charge of one shilling per span of oxen. In due course, without any event of consequence except the breaking of our dissel-boom, we arrived at the fortified post of Taungs, now a station on the railway to Vryburg. We must say of the Bechuanaland road that it is sandy and heavy—so much so that travellers require light waggons and good cattle. We are now at the head-

DSI

The Country is called Stellaland or Star-land because the war between the Chiefs Massouw and Mankoroane, which eventually led to the land becoming inhabited by white people, took place in the year 1882, when the great comet was visible



Face p. 3.]

quarters of the nation of Batlapins, whose great chief, Mankaroane, is a pensioner of the British Government in the receipt of £300 per annum. In spite of the prohibition of the sale of intoxicating liquor to natives, very properly enforced by the Bechuanaland Government, the poisonous "Cape smoke" finds its way into this country, and, together with contagious disease, is sapping both the morale and physique of the native races. The Batlapins, named after a fish (matlapin) were once a powerful tribe, but in a comparatively recent period suffered much from wars, in which each side called in European adventurers to assist them. At last the embroglio became so great that General Warren was ordered to settle all disputes, and in doing so granted a large number of farms to the English and Dutch allies of the belligerents. At an earlier period the Batlapins had so persistently and successfully robbed the people of the Transvaal of their cattle that the latter made war upon them, captured thirty

thousand head of cattle, and induced them for the future, and for excellent reasons, to observe the command "Thou shalt not steal." Of course Mankoroane is thoroughly discontented and wishes independence, but this is now impossible. Taungs is one of the few places where there is no place of worship for Europeans. Shops are open on Sundays, and there is a comfortable place of accommodation for travellers kept by Levi Brothers. It is a curious fact that we found provisions and supplies cheaper here than at Grahamstown, in consequence of the drawback on customs duty granted to Bechuanaland.

On we go over this great level country. Oxen travel at the rate of three miles an hour, and each "trek" lasts three hours; then there is a rest. We are now on a rough stony road and the waggon is shaken very much, so we are not sorry when we enter Vryburg, the chief town and seat of Government of Bechuanaland. There are a few good stone buildings here, and it is noticeable that

many of the storekeepers belong to that pushing race which is now determined to get as large a slice of Africa as possible—the Germans. After two treks from Vryburg we arrive at a farm called "Metz," belonging to a man named Ferreira, who informed us that gold had been discovered on his neighbour's farm. We proceeded to the pits, where some prospecting work was done, but did not find any indication of the precious metal. The development of mineral wealth would be of immense consequence to Bechuanaland, as it must be admitted that most of the farms are "white elephants" to their owners. The country is generally badly off for water, although in most places it can be obtained by sinking from fifteen to twenty feet. The country generally is of limestone formation, carrying very coarse grass, and almost entirely denuded of wood. Cattle do fairly well, sheep and goats very badly, but of course the pasturage may improve by burning in the proper season.

We now find a great change in the appearance of the country, when pleasant plains dotted with mimosas reminded us of the coast and proved that we had crossed the boundary and entered the Transvaal. We were now in the territory of the vassal chief Massette, and passed through fields bearing huge crops of Kafir corn and beans. Having passed quartz reefs without any sign of gold, we came to a Barolong town named Konanah, whose inhabitants own a large quantity of stock. We had been going a circuitous road in consequence of being wrongly directed, but found ourselves, after a little delay, at Mafeking, which is an important border village excellently situated for native trade. Our party went from this place to Malmani, and was by no means favourably impressed with the gold reefs. At this time there were so many prospectors at work that the only available bed for a stranger was the billiard-table, and long, weary waiting was necessary before it could

be obtained. Mafeking is built on a portion of Montsea's land. This chief behaved very well in 1883-4, by giving protection from freebooters to many well-disposed white people. The numerous huts which form his town are girdled by beautiful evergreen trees. Here there is a church erected by Sir Charles Warren in 1885, and the chief's name is prominently inscribed on a large brass plate fixed upon the door. The Administrator and Colonel Martin were at Mafeking at this time. The former gave us a useful introductory letter to Lobengula, and we greatly admired the cheerful efficiency of the police under the command of the latter officer. Discriminating kindness instead of bullying was practised by those in authority, and the men appreciated it. There was a good reading-room as well as a hospital and comfortable quarters. The officer in command kept a pack of hounds, and the men joined in the sports of the chase. Two foxes were brought to earth on the day after we

left. We reached the chief Gasitsine's town after an unpleasant journey consequent upon taking a road which we had been cautioned to avoid. The road was very heavy, and in one place we had to cross a tract of boggy ground. On the way we found large numbers of Kameel Doorn trees, and noticed that the country was evidently better for stock than that we had left behind us. We were now among the Bamakitives, and in a town of about ten thousand inhabitants. The house of the chief was a four-roomed edifice built of unburned brick and covered with galvanised iron, and we were ushered into his own room, which contained a small iron bedstead with a mattress, a tiger-skin kaross, a chest of drawers, a little crockery, and a repeating rifle. One of the rooms was papered. Having seen some promising quartz reefs in the territory, we applied for a concession, but found that some Mafeking people had been before us. In this town there is a London Missionary Society

MAP
OF
SOUTH BECHUANALAND
To accompany report of
COMMITTEE ON NATIVE LANDS
AUGUST 1885.

Scale
10 Statute Miles to 1 Inch
(1/633600)

Statute Miles 0 5 10 20 30 40 50 Statute Miles

LIST OF STATIONS
OCCUPIED BY BATLAPING DOWN TO BEGINNING OF 1884.

Number on map	Number on Copy of Missionary report	Name of Station
1	29	Mamkane
2	30	Molokeng
3	31	Moshomankane
3a	32	Molane
4	33	Molokwe
5	34	Kamakamo
6	35	Gamohu.
7	36	Ramahurana
8	37	Boreledeng
9	38	Dikasimaretwa.
10	39	Mokaiana
11	40	Mokolobi
12	41	Mogobateng
13	42	Dikhareng
14	43	Brussels
15	44	Mosing
16	45	Mudibing
17	46	Tshen
18	47	Gamabobe
19	48	Dikhwereng
20	49	Gamhercha
21	50	Logagene.
22	51	Deaidebaneng
23	52	Motopeto.
24	53	Phulomo(Paromeng)
25	54	Kwasa
26	55	Mokhware
27	56	Tlokalaka.
28	57	Kwabadi.
29	58	Ngabeng
30	59	Gopupu.
31	60	Masepparkeng
31a	61	Kgaing
32	62	Dinokaneng
-	63	Gamadubu (doubtful if on Station list)
33	64	Klein Onaing
34	67	Lasetong
35	69	Korewareng
36	70	Tlokapitsi(Paardekop)
37	28	Mochelaondé
38	27	Matladibi.
39	65	Polekwane
40	66	Lunekwelemaka

KALAHARI DESERT

Kurumam Mountains

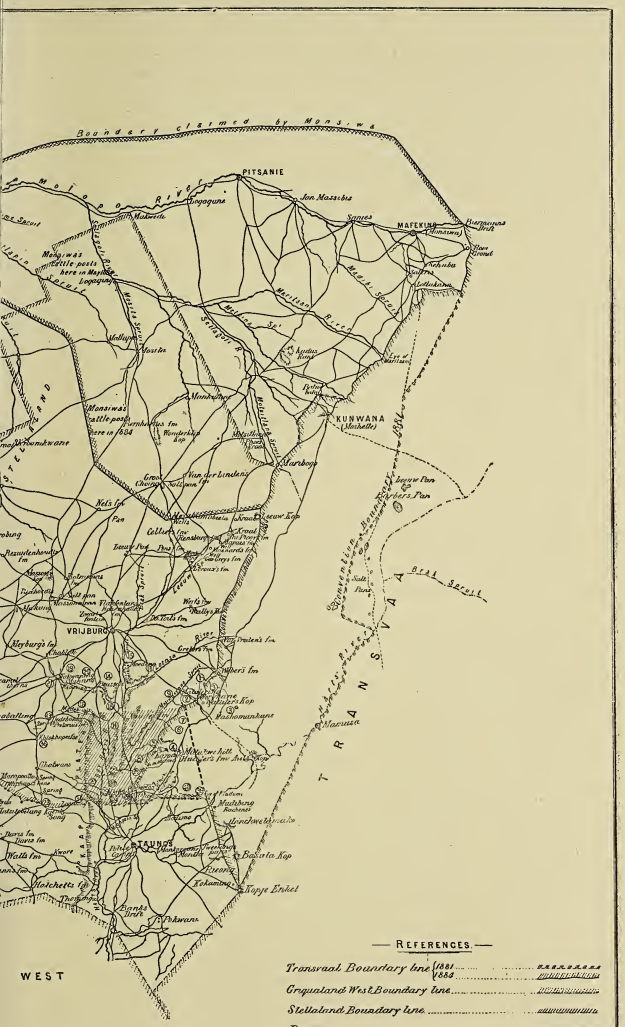
The Batlaros

KURUMANE

MOTITO

TAKOON

GRIQUALA


Boundary claimed by Mons wa
Limpopo River
PITSANIE
Jon Mazibas
Logogung
Matsheta
Sannes
MAFEKING
(Montsioa)
Kuruman
Mosimwas cattle posts here in 1884
Logogung
Mosimwas cattle posts here in 1884
Molopo River
Mafeking
Rietfontein
Mafeking
Molopo River
Molopo
Moshete
Moshete
Mosita
Mosita
Mosita

Map of South Bechuanaland

To accompany report of
Committee on Native Lands
August 1885.

Scale
10 Statute Miles to 1 Inch
(1/633360)

List of Stations

Occupied by Batlaping down to beginning of 1884.

Number on map	Number on Sir Stockenstrom's report	Name of Station
1	29	Morokana
2	30	Molalering
3	31	Mushemankana
3a	32	Molano
4	33	Mokukue
5	34	Komedama
6	35	Gapanika
7	36	Ramushavana
8	37	Boreledeng
9	38	Debusimaretwa
10	39	Mollusana
11	40	Mokoteli
12	41	Magahaleng
13	42	Dithanneng
14	43	Brussels
15	44	Moidiny
16	45	Modibing
17	46	Tokuin
18	47	Gumubole
19	48	Dikhwenneng
20	49	Kamokocha
21	50	Inganyana
22	51	Dogaitobuneng
23	52	Matupitsi
24	53	Phuluma (Puromony)
25	54	Kwasa
26	55	Mallokwa
27	56	Hokatuka
28	57	Kwabadi
29	58	Ngobong
30	59	Copupu
31	60	Masepparhene
31a	61	Kopung
32	62	Dinokaneng
-	63	Gamadikhe (doubtful if in Stellaland)
33	64	Klein Choung
34	67	Loseleng
35	69	Karewaneng
36	70	Hokopitsi (Paardekop)
37	28	Mochelamoke
38	27	Matladibi
39	65	Pelokwana
40	66	Lunchwetmahia


Boundary claimed by Mosweu
Molopo River
PITSANIE
Inganyana
Jan Massibis
Nanies
MAFEKING
Mokubis
Mosweu's cattle posts here in May 1884
Lepaguana
Kuruman River
Matlapin River
Morokana
Mosweu's cattle posts here in 1884
Mosweu
Mosweu's Spruit
Matlapin Spruit
KUNWANA
(Moshette)
KALAHARI
DESERT
Stellaland
Boundary of
CANIS
Mareburg
Rietfontein
Kats Pan
Collins Pan
Brown Pan
Archers Pan
Beal Spruit
VRIJBURG
Uitzigt
Kapoen
Kheis River
MOTITI
TAKOON
Maholatsing
Orpheck
Moselatsane
Mokhatsaneng
Tsuana
The Batlaros
KURUMAN
Mokaring
Maslowing
Maroweng
Kuruman Mountains
Tsineng
Blikfontein
Strydfontein
Matchetts
Bruntjes
Pokwane
Kopje Enkel
Bosluis Kop
Kameel Kop
Mooimeisjes Kop
Vaalbosch
Vaalbosch Kop
Vaalbosch Spruit
Vaalbosch Fontein
Vaalbosch Fontein Spruit
Vaalbosch Fontein Kop
Vaalbosch Fontein Kop Spruit
Vaalbosch Fontein Kop Spruit
Vaalbosch Fontein Kop Spruit

station and five trading stores. In spite of all opposition, drink finds its way into these places, and has a most ruinous effect upon the chiefs and people.

The country has now immensely improved, and we travel through well-watered regions which would carry a large population. "All but the spirit of man is divine" frequently finds exemplification. Here is another chief and his people in course of being ruined by bad Cape brandy. This real poison is one of the greatest curses of Southern Africa. We pass through fine grain crops, where we find a large portion of the junior population engaged in shouting and driving off as well as they can the numerous birds intent on making a good square meal. On the 24th of April we arrive at Secheli's town, Malopolo, after travelling over really fine cattle country, where there are also good crops. Water, however, has to be stored and is not plentiful. We observe a small grain grown here called Mabcalebulo or

Poko, the stalk of which resembles Kafir corn. This seed is concealed in a vessel shaped like the cockade in an artilleryman's hat. The grain is very small—about the size of No. 6 shot—makes good porridge, and is considered excellent for the manufacture of Kafir beer.

We are now at the town of Secheli and call upon him. It is Sunday, and the chief, who is a portly man of over seventy years of age, wears a black silk hat and "go-to-meeting" clothes. His youngest wife is near him, and before her kneel several slaves captured from the Bushmen tribes. This religious potentate has a church and mission among his people, but nevertheless is a cruel and bloodthirsty wretch. Some years ago, when the Sekoma chief of the Bamangwato tribe had a quarrel with his brother, the latter fled to Secheli for refuge, and was assassinated by that chief's order in a most treacherous manner. To give an illustration of savage justice, it may be

mentioned that when a trader reported a theft of some gunpowder, the unfortunate culprit was first cruelly deprived of his eyes and then beaten to death. With the exception of Mafeking, where there is a Wesleyan missionary, all the other tribes have ministers of the London Missionary Society. It has been the subject of remark that the natives in the Cape Colony under Wesleyans during the wars remained loyal, whereas those under the London Missionary Society rebelled. We reach a *vlei* called Kilamarri, where there is an abundant supply of water, and learn that we will get no further supply of the precious liquid until we have gone a distance of thirty miles. We are now trekking on the borders of the Kalahari desert, and have to push on day and night over a road five-sixths of which is just like a ploughed field, and is consequently exceedingly heavy for the poor oxen. Even when they come to a "pan" they find water almost like liquid manure. They

were forced to drink or go without. We had terrible trouble in this part of the road, and felt the more annoyed as our conductor could have avoided them if he had taken Lieutenant Dunn's advice, and gone another road. At one place the waggon sank up to the axles, and we had determined to off load and carry everything to the top of a hill, but fortunately assistance came and we were extricated ; our excellent oxen pulled us through. At the next stage we found a good supply of wood and water, and then were told that we had to push on for forty miles to "Mangwato" or Shoshong before we could reach water. Abundance of game surrounded us on our trek. These comprised, among others, wildebeest (brindled gnu), koodoo, and guinea-fowl, but the pasturage on the borders of the Kalahari is poor, and the country seems only fit for Bushmen and snakes.

We are now in Khama's country, and come across several Bushmen, men, women,

and children, who all go out hunting together. The women gather the wild melons, which grow plentifully in the sand, and form substitutes for water. The men carry bows and poisoned arrows, while the women and children have pointed sticks, which are principally used for digging up roots. These people never sow corn nor cultivate ground. They have wonderful powers for discovering melons and roots, while no matter where they go in the desert, they can always find their way, and return by the most direct path to their caves or to the white man's waggon. In one place we notice that the grass is similar to reeds, and we find enormous numbers of destructive black ants, which eject a fluid of most offensive smell. These insects destroy the bark of trees over an extensive tract of country. We now come to a beautiful park-like country, dotted with large Kameel Doorn trees ; game, however, has become scarce, with the exception of partridges, which,

although plentiful, are difficult to get without trained dogs. When nearing Shoshong we saw pronounced signs of civilisation. The chief's son met us some miles from the town, riding on a good horse, and dressed in a fashionable manner, with watch and chain and top-boots. His father, Khama, we met shortly afterwards. He was also mounted on a good horse, and was well dressed. He has pleasant manners, and seemed to be about fifty years of age. This chief is looked upon as the beau-ideal native ruler in South Africa, and is very strictly and entirely under missionary influence. The town of Shoshong was a large one, and contained no fewer than fifteen thousand inhabitants, but its site, although favourable for defensive purposes, was a most inconvenient one so far as the important matter of water supply was concerned. With difficulty sufficient water for cooking purposes was obtained.* About

* Consequently since this visit Khama has wisely removed the town to a site where there is an adequate water supply. The new town is named Palal.

forty thousand people acknowledge Khama as their paramount chief, and many of these are refugees who fled from the cruelty and oppression of Moselekatzi and his son, the present king, Lobengula. Khama was glad to increase the number of his fighting-men—various tribes acknowledge him as paramount. Among these are the Bakaluphan, an inferior, and, perhaps, aboriginal people, the Mapolongo, about eight thousand in number; the Matalhoute Rukrantse, numbering about two thousand; and the Makalakas, conjectured to be about seven thousand strong. The Bakaluphan are somewhat similar to the Bushmen in their manner of life, as they do not plough, do not possess any description of stock, and subsist on hunting and wild fruits and roots. Khama's tribe, unlike all others, is not inclined to depend for their food entirely on the hard work of poor women who labour in the fields by the sweat of their brow for their master's subsistence. The purchase of ploughs

is encouraged, and an enlightened spirit of progress is perceptible. One of the revenues of the chief is derived from royalties on all game shot. These comprise half the ivory from elephants, one wing of each ostrich, and a certain percentage of the skins of wild animals. The last mentioned are worked up into karosses with considerable skill, and this business is one of magnitude and importance. There are strict laws against the introduction of any intoxicating liquors, and even brewing Kafir beer is forbidden, while theft is promptly and severely punished, as was instanced in the case of a native who, having stolen from a trader, was taken to his store and severely flogged there by order of the chief. Any intoxicating liquor introduced is immediately destroyed, and anyone found brewing Kafir beer is exiled, and his cattle confiscated. The only food of the people is pap, or porridge, made from mealie meal or Kafir corn. Khama himself eats meat, and it seems to many some-

what hard on the people to prevent them making the thick Kafir beer, of which they are so fond, and which is both meat and drink. The object, of course, is to prevent their demoralisation by intoxicants. Circumcision is abolished ; Church people, of course, can have only one wife, and the first quarrel which Khama had with his father arose when the latter insisted upon his son taking a second wife. Khama married his first cousin, and every Sunday she sits beside him in church dressed in respectable black silk. The chief has regular morning prayers in his own house, and not only is a professed Christian, but frequently preaches in his own kraal. With all his civilisation he prefers a hut to a house, and is the son of the well-known Sekomo, who was only a cattle-herd of the great Matabele king—Moselekatzi. Comparatively recently, native life was held of so little value that persons stricken with serious disease were dragged forth from the town to be devoured by wild

animals. On one occasion a trader observed two of Sekomo's men dragging a Kafir by his two hands to the outskirts of the town and sent two of his waggon boys to reconnoitre. They found out that the poor victim was suffering from a severe attack of dysentery, and that it was intended that he should be devoured by wolves. However, by means of prompt remedial measures, the man recovered, and subsequently his father claimed him, and he had to be given up. The Rev. Mr. Moffat was the first missionary at Shoshong, and the Rev. Mr. Mackenzie was subsequently stationed here in charge of a training institution, on whose buildings £1,200 was spent, and which was afterwards removed to Kuruman.

It is now the 8th of May—a fine frosty morning, which is hailed as a sign that horse-sickness will stop. It is noticeable that a more healthy season is always looked forward to after heavy frosts, which seems to point to the fact that germs of disease are killed by them.

CHAPTER II.

We had to wait a short time at Shoshong for oxen sent up from the Crocodile river. From this place we found the road over black soil fairly good. The country looked very suitable for cattle-breeding. After five treks we arrived at the Melapa river, where there was a good supply of water. On the following day a second river named Mellus was reached, and we regretted not being able to see any game. The next stream that we had to cross was the Trivani, and after this we passed through really grand country. At the Chakma Valley a koodoo and some large game were seen. It is significant and important to learn that thirty years ago this part of the country was so infested with the tsetse fly that travellers were afraid to proceed any further to the north. "Thus

far and no farther" has often been proclaimed in Africa—but one by one the barriers are in course of being removed. Climate can be improved, savage manners may be ameliorated, great unknown regions can be made homes for civilised races. These are lessons now being taught to the people of Europe with regard to Africa. The insignificant-looking tsetse, about the size of a common house-fly, constituted, and still in some places constitutes, a barrier by no means to be despised. Its sting is certain death to cattle and horses. One of the peculiarities of its deadly poison is that the animal bitten does not show any signs of having been stung until the first rain falls, when it begins to pine away and soon dies, as if the victim of very rapid consumption.

The country seemed to improve as we advanced, as on Friday, 6th May, we halted at the finest Vlei yet seen in our travels. Here water-fowl,* paauws, and pheasant were

* A large fine "bustard"—capital eating.

abundant, and we fed upon the fat of the land. We were joined here by some native hunters, who had their own waggon and oxen. Some of these men were out after game all night, and reported this morning that they had come across two large black snakes, as long and as thick as the dissel-boom of the waggon, which they were afraid to shoot at or tackle in any way. We have now got into the country of the mapani tree, the trunk of which much resembles the fir. Elephants are very fond of the leaves, and many hunters collect them when dry and cut them up with tobacco so as to make an improved smoking mixture. We tried and approved of it. As a rule, the ground in which these mapani trees grow becomes treacherous in the wet season, and accidents consequently frequently occur to waggons. There is also growing here a forest tree resembling English box, but growing to a large size, which is considered to be the best burning wood in the world.

We have now arrived at the Letsani river, which is generally well supplied with water, but on this occasion we could get barely sufficient for our wants. At this stage it was not considered safe to travel at night, as there were difficulties from the road having been cut up by waggons just after the rain, when the sun had baked the deep ruts into permanent ridges. Our wants were well supplied with guinea-fowl and large game. One of our party informed us that about twenty years ago he was lying down in this place waiting for his waggons, when he heard slight noises, to which he paid no attention. After a while, when his waggons got near and the cracks of the waggon whips could be heard, the animals that had been making the noise were disturbed, and then he found out to his vast astonishment that he had been resting within a few yards of five lions. He fired, but the beasts disappeared, and he could not tell whether or not his shot had taken effect. In the early days the black

rhinoceros was well known here, and then the tsetse fly prevented hunters of big game from following it. We had now to make long treks occasionally in order to get water. In one place water was so scarce that we could only get sufficient for coffee. It was a pleasant surprise to come suddenly on the camping-ground of the famous hunter, Selous, who must have done tremendous execution among the game, judging by the number of bones and heads of animals to be seen at his outspan place. We are now in a veritable land of wild beasts. One spot was pointed out to us where a traveller had seen as many as sixty lions together. One of his boys was seized by a lion at night. When his master heard his screams he rushed out with his gun, followed the cries, and was fortunate enough to shoot the lion and extricate his servant, but the poor fellow died of his wounds a few hours afterwards On this occasion the wolves were very numerous, and, scenting blood, made such

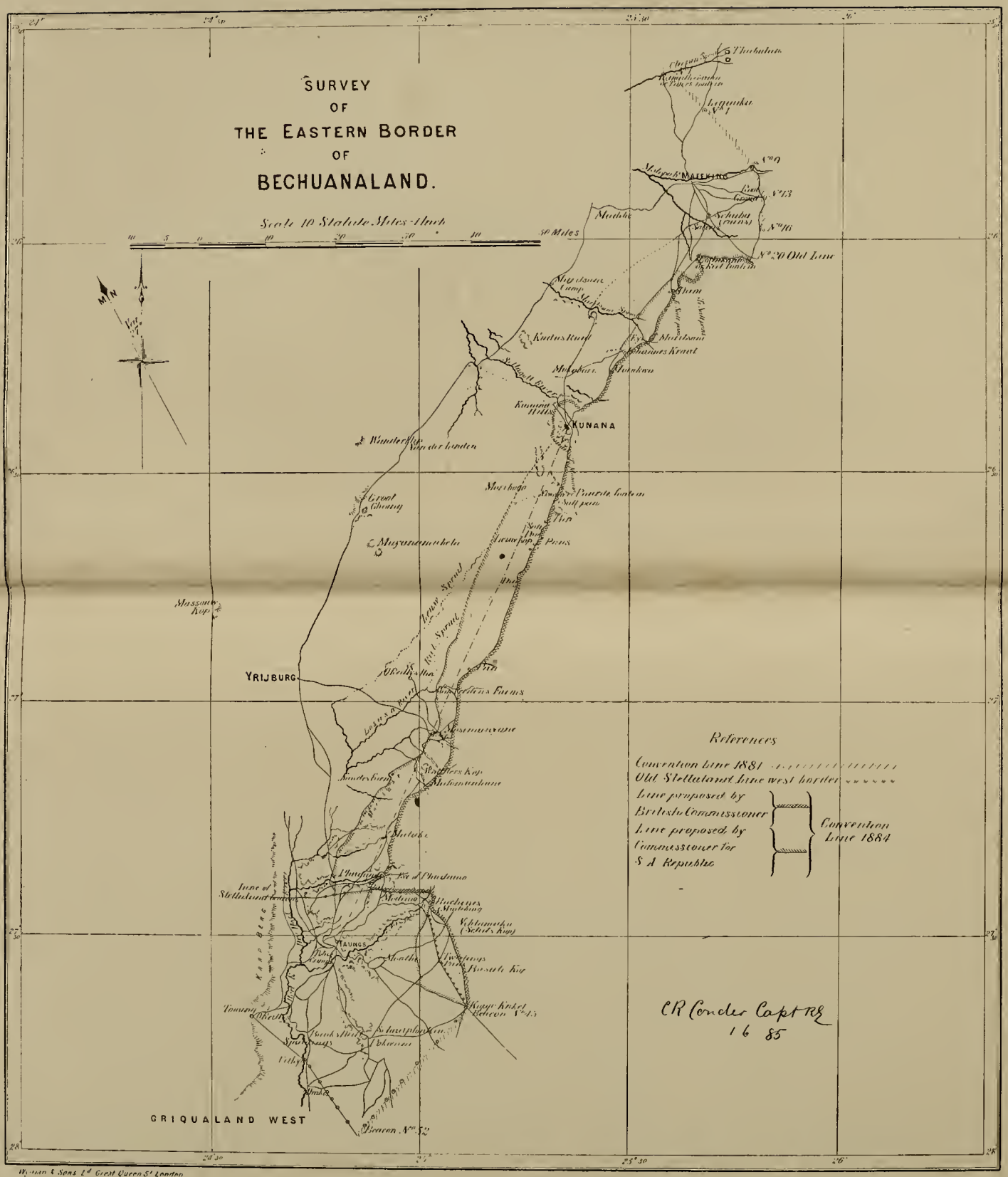
determined attempts to get at the wounded man, that a guard had to be kept all night to ward them off. Another night one of the boys noticed a lion trying to get at his oxen, and fired, so wounding the beast that he went away leaving a distinct track of blood in his footsteps. In those days there is no doubt that travelling was attended with great danger from the attacks of wild animals—so much so that a halt was always made before dusk, the waggons and oxen were fenced in with thorn bush, and a fire was constantly maintained. Reptiles are also very numerous. We were told by a man who lost his oxen in Gasitine's country that when he went out with a lantern to search for them he found himself among such a number of night adders that he could scarcely put his foot down without treading on one of them.

On the 17th May we made a short trek and halted near a "boboli," or cream of tartar tree, which bears very large pods


SURVEY
OF
THE EASTERN BORDER
OF
BECHUANALAND.
Scale 10 Statute Miles = 1 Inch
10 5 0 10 20 30 40 50 Miles
MN
Var.
Limpopo R.
Shashe R.
Tuli
Tuli Circle
Tuli Block
Tuli Block Beacon
Tuli Block Beacon
Tuli Block Beacon



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covered with a white substance, which is slightly acid and makes an agreeable drink. This tree was twelve feet in height and thirty-four feet in circumference. Another that we measured was thirty feet high and forty-four in girth. The mapani tree seems to improve the farther we go north, as we pass through plantations of them in which many are quite forty feet high. On Wednesday, 18th May, we make a good trek through magnificent country which it did one's eyes good to look upon. We pass the Seribi (a sand river) and arrive at the Macloutsie river, which has a sandy bottom, in which we have to dig to get water. Here we had good sport and bagged many guinea-fowls and pheasants. It was at this spot about twenty-five years ago that three travellers from Natal, named Bany, Page, and Throgmorton, encamped for fifteen days, having been ordered to go back from Matabeleland by its then ruler, Moselekatzi, in consequence of their having Zulu servants

with them, and this shows that the Matabele claimed the country as far as the Macloutsie river. As customary, the travellers had a kraal made for their cattle every night. On one occasion, in spite of every precaution, the lions burst into the kraal, drove out seven oxen and killed one of them—the six others were never seen again. This loss of cattle prevented the travellers from proceeding on their journey; accordingly, Throgmorton started for Khama's town, then Sekomo's, to purchase other oxen to make up the team. Then the unfortunate Natal travellers were tormented by two ferocious lions, who seemed determined to seize their horses, although they were protected at night by peculiar thorn bushes, whose prickles no animal likes to approach. The lions dashed through every obstacle, seized a horse and devoured him. Then a gun was set as a trap every night in the kraal, and fortunately managed to kill one of these ferocious beasts. The other entered the



LETTER CARRIER.

Face p. 27.]

kraal on a subsequent occasion, and, marvellous to say, took hold of the barrel of the gun with his teeth and carried it off, and it was afterwards found torn to pieces at a distance of about fifty yards from the camp. Subsequently this animal was seen, and when shots were fired at him, boldly approached. At last, however, this monarch of the forest was laid low, to the great joy of the travellers, whose nerves had been quite unstrung by anxiety and fear.

After a seven hours' trek we arrived at the Shashi, which is a sand river, but there were pools of water in it. Here we met Mr. John Fry, formerly head of the Detective Department of Kimberley, on his way to that town from the Tati gold-fields, only seven miles distant, and about which he reported favourably. They must eventually become a great success. The concession was originally granted by Lobengula to Sir John Swinburne for an English syndicate, but eventually lapsed in consequence

of the annual payments stipulated for not being made to the king. Mr. Fry was taking down a considerable quantity of gold and some rich quartz to a Kimberley syndicate. One of the reefs yields four ounces to the ton. Mr. Sam Edwards has an interest with Mr. Fry. The former was of great assistance to General Warren during the troublesome times, and received a commission in the Bechuanaland forces with the rank of major. He also got into the good graces of Lobengula, and received a Tati mineral rights concession from him.

On our way we had seen some good-looking, promising quartz, and determined to prospect on our return. We did not know exactly where the boundary-line existed between the dominions of Khama and Lobengula, but wrote politely to the former, telling him of our proceedings, and asking permission to prospect on our way back. To this we got a letter from Mr. King, in the employ of Messrs. Francis and

Clark, stating, on the part of Khama, that he had not given us leave to prospect. This was more than we expected from this professed Christian ruler, and we were greatly disappointed.

There is a splendid grass growing in this country, called "paarden grass" (horses' grass), which is quite equal to oat-hay, and horses kept on this grass, with a few mealies, keep their condition as well as if they were stabled. On Saturday, 21st May, we passed several Dutchmen who had shot two hartebeest and two eland the day before. They left the game in order to bring the waggons as near to it as possible, but a thunderstorm intervened, and washed out the spoor, so that they were unable to find it. On the 22nd of May we reached the Tati, which is only about seven miles from the Shashi river. Here we met Major Edwards, who is an exceedingly good-hearted, intelligent man. He is in charge of the syndicates at this place. We visited

the shafts, which are all in old workings, where men of whom we know nothing once obtained gold. The Blue Jacket Reef is considered the richest. They have, also, the New Zealand and Police Reefs. The latter was worked by some deserters from the old Cape Mounted Police, then under the command of Sir Walter Currie. These men succeeded in getting out a quantity of quartz, but they were forced eventually to abandon it in consequence of having no crushing machinery. At that time game was exceedingly plentiful, and it was not difficult to get a good living easily, and if they had only practised the old native method they could also have secured a fair supply of the precious metal. The native plan is to roast the quartz thoroughly well, then throw water on it, and when it is thus reduced to brittleness, grind it with flat stones as they do corn. Major Edwards accompanied the Rev. Mr. Moffat on his first visit to Matabeleland, and they were the

first white men who visited Moselekatzi. In company with the former, we were able to visit the stamping-machinery of the Tati syndicate, and found it to comprise five stamps of a very antiquated pattern, with no maker's name on, imported many years ago by Sir John Swinburne. These were driven by a "Clayton" twelve-horse steam-engine, the fuel for which was wood. Two white men looked after the machinery, while seven Zambesi boys attended to the fuel and broke up the quartz intended for feeding. Two other boys cleared away the tailings, which are subsequently to be submitted to another process. The water for the boiler is pumped from the Tati river. The last seven tons of quartz crushed had yielded thirty-three ounces of gold. One favourable feature about mining in this neighbourhood is the cheapness of native Zambesi labour, which is paid for in beads at the rate of seven shillings per man per month. Kafir corn is plentiful, and a fat

tailed sheep can be bought for three shillings. The London and Limpopo Company held this mining district for some time, but eventually, in a most remarkable manner, its value was ignored, and for seven years the trifling payment of thirty pounds per annum was not made to Lobengula. This king personally gave the concession thus forfeited to Major Edwards, on condition of his paying fifty pounds on the third of September of each year. There are two business places in the Tati village, and other buildings occupied by Dutch and English. The country in the neighbourhood is suitable both for cultivation and stock breeding.

We cannot forget the kindness shown to us here by an Albany man, Mr. McMinaway, who welcomed us in the most hearty manner, and presented us with several dozen of fresh eggs, a bottle of "Three-Star" brandy, and one bottle of port wine. The last were most acceptable, as no liquor can be got for love or money in the country. We

met a son of Sir John Swinburne, and an engineer, both of whom seemed to have some hope of getting the old concession back; but there is not the faintest chance of success in working against Edwards, who is quite the most popular man in the country.

On Thursday, the 24th of May, we loyally celebrated Her Majesty's birthday on the banks of the Ramaquaban, another sand river. Our next trek was to the Impakwi stream, on the banks of which we beheld a remarkable ruined building, the walls of which were made of well-dressed, cut free-stone. This work must of course have been performed by skilled labour. From the appearance of the building and the remains of burnt quartz inside, we came to the conclusion that it must have been used for smelting purposes. We heard that young Swinburne got a mining concession from the Ramaquaban to this river, but lost it through not being content, and demanding more.

Roads very bad. We pity anyone who should attempt to travel this route in the wet season. In the early morning frost is on the ground, and the landscape now is charming—fine trees of many varieties, and grassy and shrub-clad hills crowned with granite blocks. At our outspan we see a fine banyan-tree, growing among the rocks, and observe a variety of cactus-plants. At the Inquisi river we found a fine running stream of water, and then came upon five Dutch waggons encamped, the owners of which were on a shooting expedition with their wives and children. In cases such as this the general plan is to select a stand, and enclose the waggons and cattle in a kraal. The men have shooting horses, and are generally accompanied by a number of donkeys, which are used as carriers. When the game is brought into camp the women superintend the cutting-up and curing of the venison, which is hung in long strips from the branches of trees or lines placed

for that purpose. When the meat is well wind-and-sun-dried it is packed in bags. The merits of "biltong" are not sufficiently known and appreciated. It is admirable provender for a campaign. The Boers in a war can carry a quantity of this light, nutritive food, and thus are enabled to make their patrols without the encumbrance of waggons. These Dutch hunters are on their way to the king's kraal—Buluwayo—where he resides ten months in the year. Their object is to ask for permission to hunt. We afterwards learned that leave was not granted, and were not surprised, as several hunters had destroyed a large quantity of game, making no use of the flesh, merely in order to get possession of the hides. Certainly there was some reason for putting a stop to this wholesale destruction.

We travel on through charming country with a chain of hills on either side. Some of the hills are high and of pyramid shape,

with a solitary granite block at the top, as if to put a finishing touch to the work. This is not only a country for game and stock, but unquestionably one also for serpents. We came suddenly upon the dead body of a huge grey snake, ten feet long, exhibited publicly as a warning to the traveller. The country which we are now passing through was, twenty-five years ago, occupied by the Makobi under a chief named Mahuka. When Moselekatze made war against Sekomo he attacked the Makobis, killed many of their men and women, and led a large number of the children into captivity. Many of the people who escaped took refuge with Sekomo, and were taken under his protection. Wednesday, 25th May, was an unlucky day for us, as, in the first place, we lost our kettle—a serious affair situated as we were ; then, through the conductor going away hunting, and not attending to his duty, the oxen pulled the waggon into violent collision with a kameel doorn

tree, so as to seriously injure our tent. Any injury like this is of importance, as it is not merely our waggon, but our home, that is damaged. After all this we got into a disagreeable swamp, and the poor oxen were seven hours in the yoke before we were extricated. On the next day, the 26th May, the road continued bad, but we could not help admiring the country, and coming to the conclusion that it fulfilled all the requirements necessary for stock-farming. We were still going on between ranges of hills, which would sometimes be about a thousand yards apart, with flat country between. Then we would come upon level country, with hills in the far distance. What we specially noticed was the unoccupied state of the country. For days after leaving Tati we met no sign of life, and then came across isolated cattle-posts and some cultivated fields. The white man's mission is to come in and to take possession. Six hours trek brings us to Lee's old farm, now in the

occupation of a Dutchman named Grief, who is breeding donkeys on rather a large scale, for the purpose of supplying hunters. We noticed that both cattle and sheep were doing well here.

CHAPTER III.

We are now only sixty miles from the king's kraal. On Saturday, 28th May, after having completely repaired our waggon, we make a fresh start and find the pasturage not so good, the grass being of a coarse wiry nature. The scenery continues very beautiful and interesting. We pass along between hills and sometimes have to go through very narrow openings—in one instance of thirty feet, in another of forty feet. Without these natural passes the country would be a most difficult one to travel over. The variety of the foliage of the trees and bushes attracted our attention. The roads are very stony, and occasional swamps have to be crossed. On our way we came across the spoor of a number of ex-policemen of the Bechuanaland force, who were on their

way to Lobengula under the leadership of Mr. F. Johnson, to endeavour to obtain a concession.* They had to encounter many hardships and had much difficulty on the road, partly caused by the obstinacy of donkeys, who would not keep the road, and whose erratic proceedings sometimes obliged them to cut down a number of trees. At this time we were going over very rough roads where we stuck fast twice and were only able to get out by using two teams.

At our next outspan we were visited by some miserable-looking Makalakas, who are, however, better cultivators of the ground than the Matabeles. We purchased mealies, beans, and ground nuts from them for calico and beads. It is well for travellers to know that a knowledge of the fashionable, and therefore acceptable, beads is of very great consequence. Sixpennyworth of them will buy more than twenty shillings in coin.

* This was the origin of the celebrated British South Africa Company.



MATABELE HUT.

Face p. 41.]

Women in this country wear bead anklets largely, having their legs dressed from the ankle up with nearly a stocking length of these favourite ornaments.

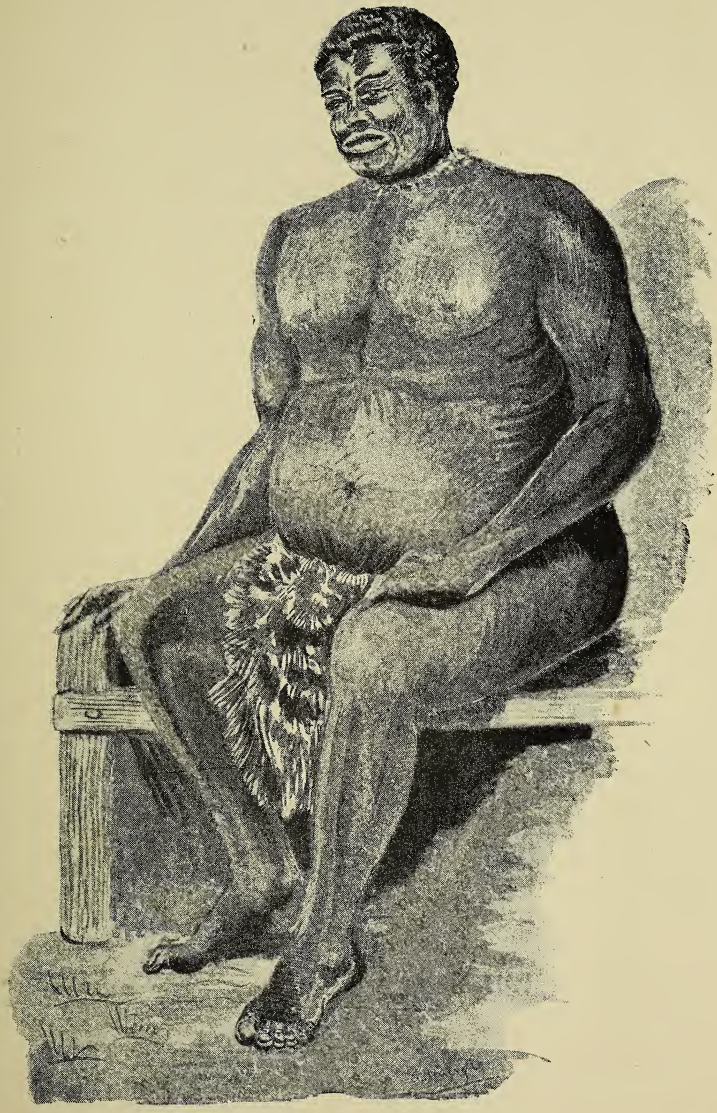
Passing some cultivated land prepared for sweet potatoes and ground nuts, we found ridges with furrows fifteen inches deep and three feet wide, meant for drainage after heavy rains. Here we encountered a very old man, about ninety years of age, who, although bent nearly double, still showed the war-like nature of his people by tottering along with an assegai and a knob-kerrie over one shoulder, while his steps were supported by means of a walking-stick which he carried in his right hand. The protea (sugar bush) and the wild citron grow here, and we greatly admired the bold and beautiful scenery. One hill was very conspicuous, standing about two hundred feet high, and as perfectly smooth as if it had been coated over with cement. On the 29th May we crossed the Sashani and had to ascend a steep hill

before getting to the river. The crops are looking well, and we are now among natives who at every outspan wait upon us for the purpose of barter. We proceed on through a fine valley well supplied with water, and between mountains, many of which, being capped with granite, have the appearance of fortresses. We noticed, however, that the pasturage was not good for stock, and that the white ant was destroying the forest trees of the country. These pests also get into buildings. Grain and tobacco were brought in by natives; the latter was by no means of good quality and would only do for our boys. Dagha, or wild hemp, is also sold, and we noticed with pleasure earthenware jars which were really well-made. These last are excellent for cooking purposes, and dried fruit prepared in them tastes much better than when cooked in an iron pot. The natives are great thieves, and travellers have to be constantly on the look-out for their depredations. We passed some Kafir planta-

tions and several fine banyan trees. The pasturage is undoubtedly poor for cattle. Here the sheep brought for sale were fat-tailed and bearing black wool. One of us was sitting reading with spectacles on when a native gazed, lost in wonder, and standing in one position for two hours. The sight of a man with four eyes was too much for him.

On the 31st May we passed quartz reefs, one of which was sixty feet across ; but we dared not prospect for fear of being reported to the king. We now passed the River Kumali, in which there was abundance of water. It is reported that there are crocodiles here, and that bathers consequently require to be careful. It is noticeable that these reptiles are only found in the rivers which run to the eastward. The next streams are the Slackengella and Umgunin, and we passed several very good-looking quartz reefs. The country here is covered with scrubby bush and mimosa. We were now only a short distance from the

king's kraal, and walked in front of the waggon to the top of a hill for the purpose of getting a good view of the country. On the way we were surprised to find nothing but quartz, and could trace the reef for a very long distance. On the next rise, forty feet high, we found we were on another mass of quartz, and thinking that at some future day there may be a great gold mine here, we named the place "Beaconsfield Reefs," in honour of one of Britain's foremost statesmen. On Wednesday, 1st June, we arrived at Buluwayo, the king's kraal, and had the honour of meeting and conversing with Lobengula. He was very affable, and seemingly pleased to see us when we went to visit him at his kraal, which we did immediately on our arrival. There were no fewer than five or six hundred cattle, besides sheep and goats, in the adjoining enclosure. When we arrived several oxen had been killed and were in course of being cut up. This kraal, at which we now found



KING LOBENGULA.

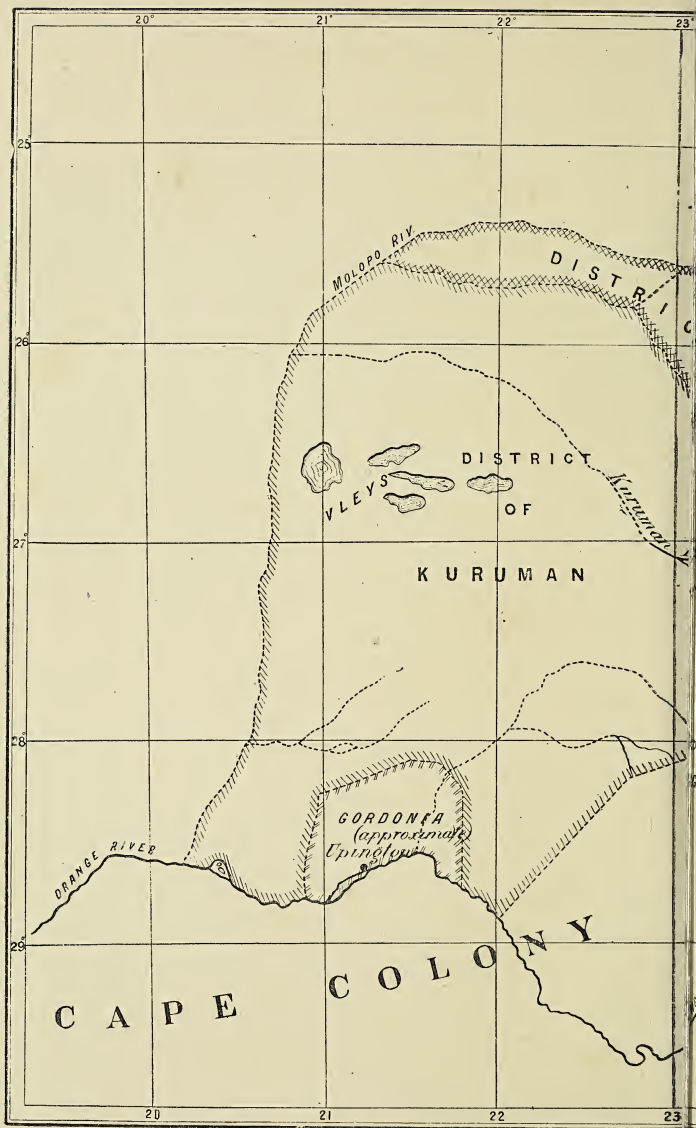
[*Face p.* 44.

ourselves, is the king's favourite place for receptions when matters of national importance are under consideration — what impi is to go out on a murderous expedition, &c. Here also the finest medicines are concocted, and the king is "doctored" by the war doctor. Strange to say, this great official is a Fingoe from the Cape Colony, and the only native who is allowed to own a waggon. The first thing we did was to ask for leave to outspan, in accordance with custom. So soon as this permission was granted, we proceeded to fence our waggon and to make a kraal for the cattle. In the afternoon we called on his Majesty, taking care to arrive after his afternoon sleep was over, a fact made known by his appearing in front, sitting upon the waggon box. Lobengula seems to have a decided preference for the waggon to the hut. One of his favourite queens is always in attendance upon him there, and it is always possible to tell who is a

royal wife by the colour of her beads, and by a small, round ornament, made of some sticky substance, which is stuck on the back part of the head, the hair having been first removed by a piece of glass which is used for shaving purposes. In the king's enclosure there were two waggons, one of which was used for lumber. The royal huts are in a part of the kraal divided off, and at night the kraal gate is barred up with poles, and no one is allowed to remain inside but the king's household. Lobengula receives his visitors, seated on the waggon box, and addresses them from this eminence. His costume is of the most restricted description, consisting merely of a band around the loins. There are no seats provided for visitors, so some squat on the ground among the manure, others on skulls of oxen, while some find seats on empty champagne cases. When the sun is hot, strangers are very glad to find shelter

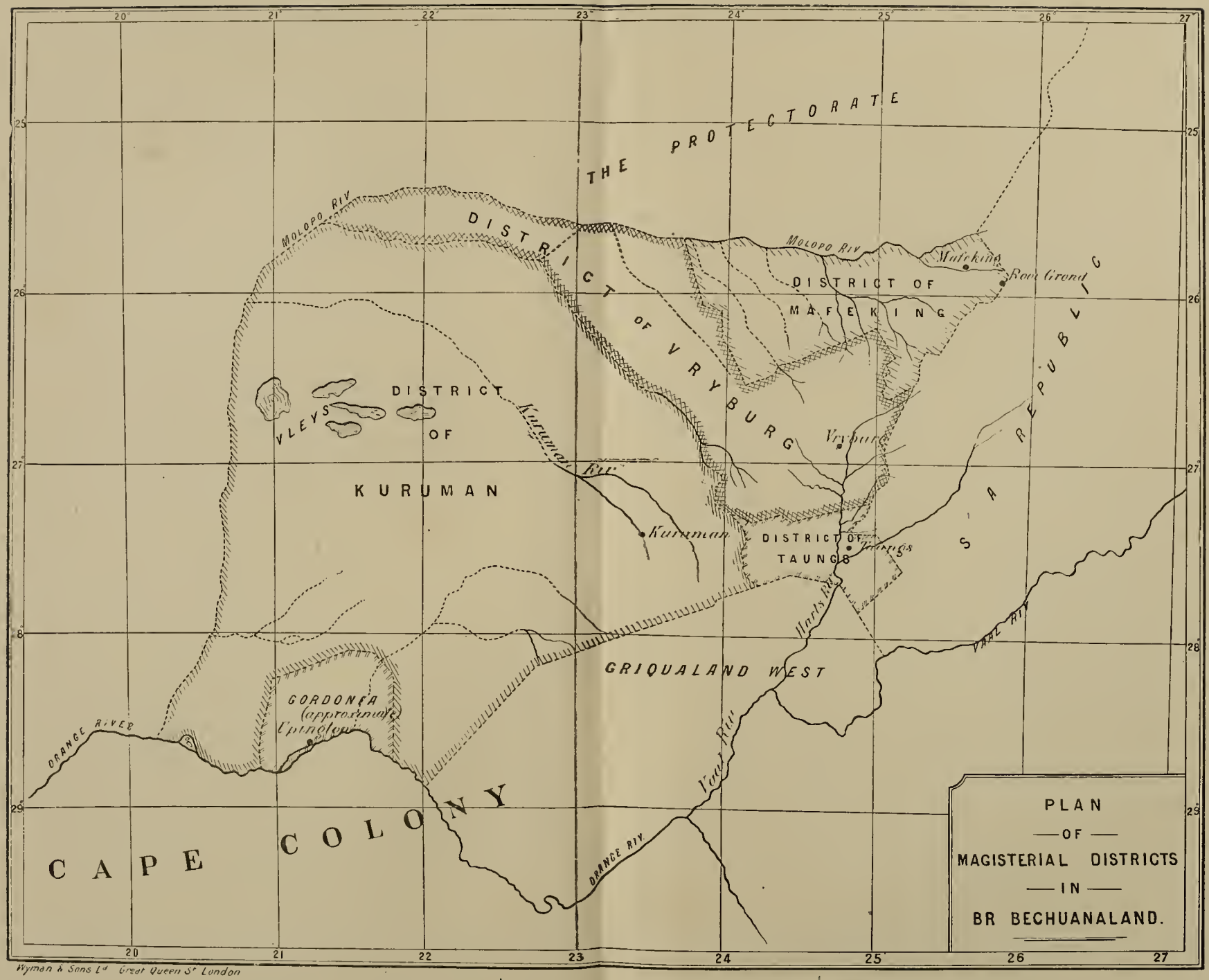
under the poles that are erected for the meat to be placed upon. This is very far from being pleasant, as very often blood and objectionable matter drops upon your hat and clothes. However, there is no respect of persons, and if you want an interview you must bear all the inconveniences attendant on being at court. Afterwards we had our travelling chairs with canvas backs taken up to the kraal, and when the day was hot protected ourselves with umbrellas. These were necessary, as although we found the nights cold, the days were very hot. According to custom, visitors have first to shake hands with the king, and after some conversation an attendant confronts you with a can and takes a good drink of Kafir beer from it first before presenting it to you. This is the same custom as that we saw adopted at the chief Sechali's, and is of course intended to indicate the absence of any treachery. The can is then handed, like

a loving-cup, from one to another, and on state occasions the Indunas are allowed to have a pull out of it. For the entertainment of visitors a plate with fine English salt is kept, and some well-done roast beef broiled by the royal cook is brought forward for the refreshment of the company. Everyone has his own knife, and by means of it helps himself, and when the only dish, that containing the joint, is emptied, it is sent away for another supply. If you arrive late you may be a partaker of the king's evening meal, which is exceedingly well cooked in immense earthenware jars of more than four feet in height. Very little water is put in, a lid is placed on the top, and wet cow-dung around the joint of the cover. With a very slow fire the meat is allowed to steam all day, and when taken up it is always well cooked and generally very tender. There are always Indunas and hangers-on to be fed, as well as the



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RIQUALAND WEST
VAAL RIV.
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MAGISTERIAL DISTRICTS
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BR BECHUANALAND.
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women of the royal household, who never dare to eat with the lords of creation. Representatives of different towns are allowed to have huts immediately outside the kraal; then there are a number of slave boys and favourite dogs to be fed. Every day three oxen are killed, and sometimes sheep and goats are slaughtered. One of the king's favourites is an Angora ram, presented to him by some traveller, and this creature has a slave boy to attend on it.

After partaking of the king's hospitality we went back to the waggons, and soon afterwards a man arrived with a fat-tailed sheep as a present. We learnt that just as we arrived a party of Germans left for Pretoria. One of these was Mr. Scholtz, who had held a high official position under his own Government. The object of their visit was the same as ours—to obtain a concession in Mashonaland—and for two weeks they did their best, but unsuccessfully. We felt

pleased at this news, because the success of the Germans would have meant our failure. The king's favourite drink is champagne, and consequently most travellers take two or three cases as a present to him. When it was suggested that the king should be invited to our waggons, one of our party, who assumed knowledge that he did not possess, ridiculed the idea as preposterous. Nevertheless, he was invited, accepted the invitation, came down in state with a number of his followers, and thoroughly enjoyed the champagne and biscuits. He also made no difficulty about accepting and carrying off all that remained in our possession. Not only was Lobengula much pleased with the visit, but, following the royal example, queens, members of the royal family, Indunas, and courtiers waited upon us. In fact, we were besieged with beggars of the highest class, and it was really impossible to satisfy their demands. Some of them wished to barter, and one of the articles they

offered was crystallised salt, which is obtained from a vlei of very great dimensions, described as quite a day's journey round. Two of the old residents of this country are Mr. Phillips and Mr. William Tainton. The latter is the only surviving son of Mr. Tainton of the Peddie division (two of his brothers were killed in a Kafir war), and is a trader and interpreter, who is said to possess a good deal of influence with the king. He and three others have obtained a mineral concession. In the many opportunities we had of learning everything possible about the country, we heard some curious snake stories. One is about the king before he was anointed, and only an Induna, meeting with a monster snake, said to have been about sixty strides long. Mr. Grief, from Marigwi, said that on one of his trading expeditions he was out walking and just recovering from fever, when he saw a most extraordinary-looking snake, the head of which was of a very vivid blue—like

bluestone ; six inches from the head there was a yellow circle, then again blue, and so on alternately yellow and blue. Six inches at the tail were blue, and the snake was fourteen feet in length. He called out to his boys to bring the guns, but before they could do so the animal escaped. On another occasion he came across another snake marked with bands of blue and white. King Lobengula was in no way to be outdone, and declared that he had seen similar snakes, only much larger. In fact, he had seen them over one hundred feet in length. Some of those his Majesty had gazed upon were quite red, some blue and black, and others yellow and black. Tainton reminded the king of the following incident : They were sitting on the ground when a very large snake was seen in the branches of the trees immediately overhead, and Tainton went away, remarking that the wind might blow the snake down on them. The king did not stir, and shortly afterwards the

snake fell in his lap, when, so far from Lobengula being afraid, he only laughed, and said, "It won't bite ; don't you know these snakes are spirits, and my father's spirit is in one of them to this day ?" It is true that the Matabeles consider certain snakes sacred, and do not destroy them, so that it is evident we have the ancient serpent worship in this part of Africa. Lobengula as king is supreme, he is a king of kings, the rain falls at his orders, the sun shines because he exists, and without him there would be darkness. There is, nevertheless, a story told which would seem to show that some of the young bloods of the kingdom were not over-credulous, as it is asserted that they put a snake into a kraal in which the young Lobengula sat, taking care that there was no back-door or means of egress. The great monarch was in a great funk, but tackled the snake and killed it. No one now dare try any such practical joke. He has become a very portly man,

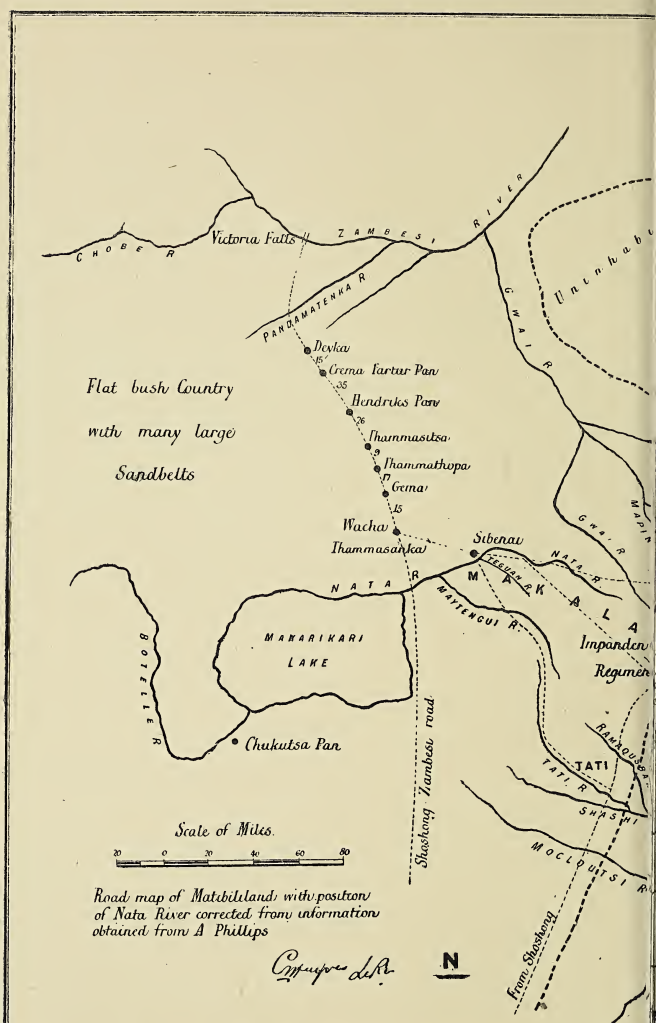
weighing at least three hundred pounds. He never encumbers himself with much clothing, but is particular always to wear a hat, and in cold weather wraps himself well up in a large skin kaross. One peculiarity about the religion of these people is that the rite of circumcision is only practised on members of the royal family, who are at present about thirty in number.

One interesting member of the court is William the war doctor, who is a Fingoe, who once lived at Newtondale, in the Peddie division, and is a son of Bolala, brother to the chief Taquin, who, forty years ago, being charged with the crime of murder, escaped, and put himself under the leadership of the great Moselekatzi, who conquered all the country between the Vaal and Zambesi rivers. Strange to say, this fighting king was at one time desirous of settling in Kaffraria, and actually got down as far as Buntingville to spy out the land, when he was persuaded to return. The 4th of June

found us waiting anxiously for an interview with the king, when we could ask his permission to go into Mashonaland, but we learnt that he was very busy with correspondence from the Administrator of Bechuanaland. After this the king had to be "doctored." William, the war doctor was in attendance in the Buck kraal to perform the ceremony, and the king stood upon a wild dog-skin during the operation. Hospitality to us was not forgotten, and orders were duly given to the royal cook to prepare meat for our refreshment. We were plentifully supplied, and had also abundance of beer. It is *de règle* for guests to leave nothing unconsumed, but fortunately there are always hangers-on and slave boys sufficient to polish every plate and completely exhaust the contents of the beer-can. The war doctor, William, has married one of the sisters of the king, and has seven wives in all. He is not to be trusted, and is very fond of intoxicating liquor, but, indeed, so are they

all. The queens crave for it, and the proclivity of the nation for strong drink is evident. In conversation with William we learnt his views about native customs. He told us, among other things, that marriages only took place where there was real love, and not from mercenary motives. The marriage of first cousins is prohibited under the penalty of death. It is strange for anyone accustomed to Kafirs to find a Fingoe like William holding a high position, as the former race look upon the latter as "dogs," and hold them in contempt.

It is now Sunday, 5th June, and we are in hopes of approaching the king on Monday upon the subject of our mission.



Flat bush Country with many large Sandbelts

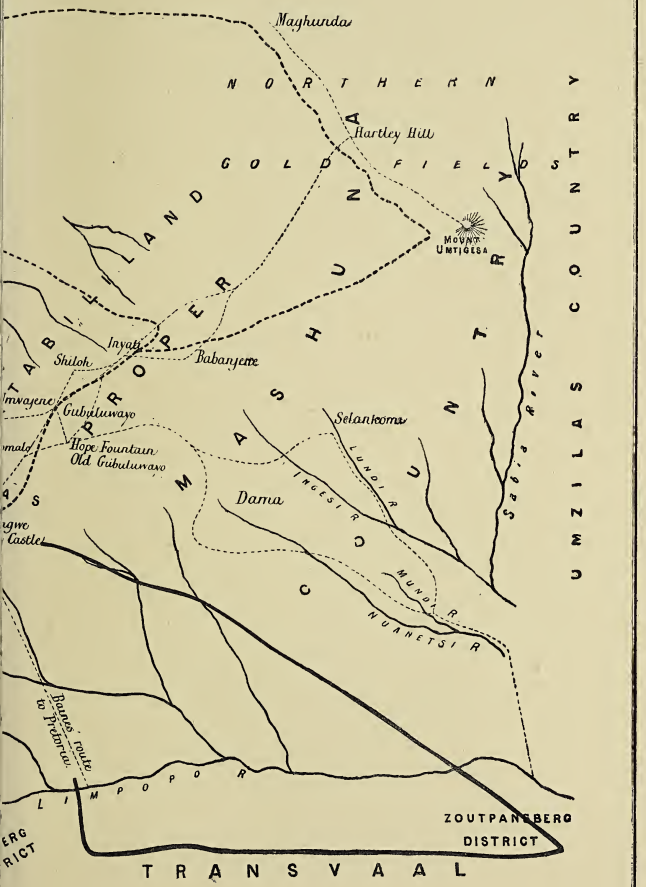
Road map of Matabililand with position of Nata River corrected from information obtained from A Phillips

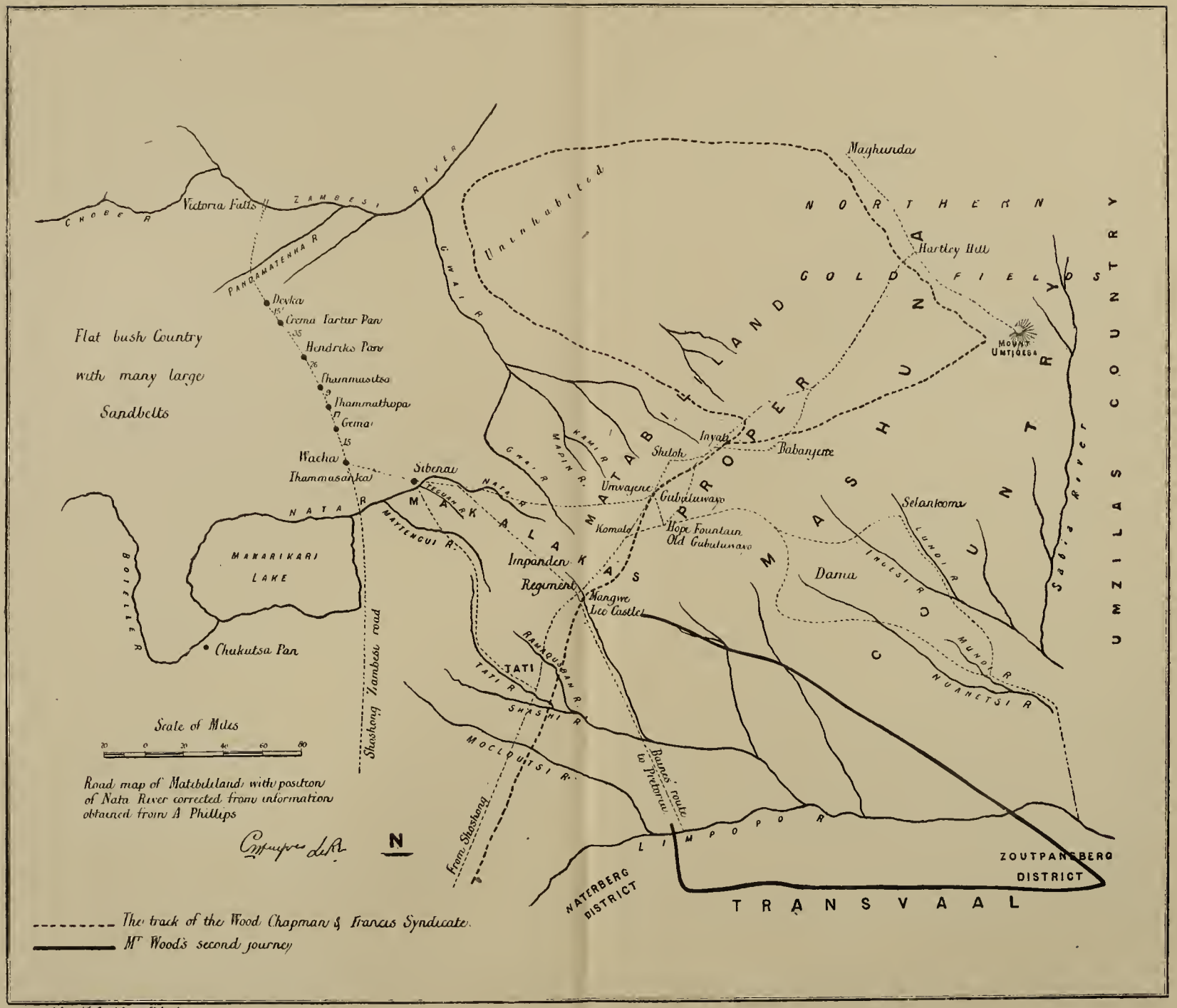
Compass Lab

The track of the Wood Chapman & Francis Syndicate.

Mr Woods second journey

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Maghunda
NORTHERN
Hartley Hill
GOLD FIELDS
MOUNT UMTIGELA
UMZILAS COUNTRY
Sabi River
Inyati
Shiloh
Babanjene
Gubuluwayo
Hope Fountain
Old Gubuluwayo
Selankoma
Lundi R.
Ingesi R.
Dama
Mashunaland
Mashunaland
Muvor R.
Nuanetsi R.
Limpopo R.
Barnes route to Pretoria
ZOUTPANSBERG DISTRICT
TRANSVAAL



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CHAPTER IV.

We had been staying at the king's kraal, about four miles from Buluwayo, but got leave to see the latter place, and proceeded there, accompanied by Mr. Phillips and the court messenger bearing the keys of the royal palace and storehouses. Buluwayo is a cold, black, rocky spot, at one time thickly timbered, but the requirements for building, &c., are so great that a thick forest soon becomes denuded. The king's house is built with burnt brick, not plastered, and covered with thatch. It consists of two portions, and the verandah in front is seventy feet long. The floors of the rooms are all composed of well-sifted earth, and were laid and polished by no fewer than three hundred girls. The soil from ant-heaps, brought in lumps, was first beaten by sticks until

thoroughly pulverised, and then spread as level as possible. The girls then took water into their mouths and spat it out on the soil until it was so moist that they could work it with their hands, then, when perfectly smooth, it was polished beautifully. Blood is one of the ingredients used for obtaining a glaze. As the polishing process necessitates very hard labour, some of the young girls became discontented and struck work, but, as Lobengula was determined to make even the ladies obedient, when this rebellion was reported to him, he gave orders that they were to be put into a kraal and each furnished with a stick and an order to beat the others. At first this was looked upon as fun, but it soon degenerated into such a fearful fight as to horrify a white man, who became a witness of it. At his intercession the combat was put an end to, and the women released. They immediately resumed their work and finished it in a satisfactory manner. So

strict and particular is the king that when it was reported to him that some of the bricks for his house were not properly burnt, he compelled one unfortunate Induna to test each one by taking two up in his hands and swinging them violently against each other, so that only those which survived the contact could be used. The Matabele nation under Lobengula are about one hundred thousand in number, and the army is about fifteen thousand strong. They are armed with guns, axes and assegais, but their supply of ammunition is not great, and they could really fight better and do more execution with the ancient weapons, which they are accustomed to, than with guns. They think when they have fire-arms that they are quite equal to other men who bear similar arms, and this misplaced confidence makes them fight at a terrible disadvantage.

But now to describe the king's palace. Under the verandah there are a number of pigeons, which are great favourites of the

king, who is indeed very fond of all animals. When the door was opened we were surprised to see a miscellaneous collection of all conceivable articles, to take an inventory of which would be a task of no small magnitude. Indeed, the royal house seems to be used very much for lumber of all descriptions. There are several good pictures on the walls, painted by Baines and other artists, and amongst them is an excellent picture of Lobengula himself. The first thing you see in a special store-room is a great armchair with a brass crown on the top of the back, presented by Sir John Swinburne. This throne seems never to be used. Then there are supplies of blankets, clothing, guns of all descriptions, and ammunition, evidently the accumulation of many years. There is also the medicine store. The peculiarity of the roof of the building is that the rafters are outside the thatch. In addition to the main edifice there is also a waggon house. The walls are all of good burnt brick,

and the builder was an old English sailor named Halyet. His introduction to Buluwayo and the king was caused by an accident. It seems that when travelling in a waggon with gunpowder and matches there was an explosion, and poor Halyet was thrown out much injured. He had to remain, and turned his temporary detention into permanent residence. He is known to everybody under the sobriquet of "Johnny Mawby." The building of the palace was duly put in his hands, but during the progress of the works the king became dissatisfied at occasional long absences of Johnny. The latter explained that these were unavoidable, in consequence of his having no wife and being forced to cook his own food. At this time it happened that the death of a member of the royal family was attributed by the witch doctor to a slave girl, whom he smelt out, and she was accordingly condemned to die. "No," said the king to Johnny, "take her instead as your wife."

The marriage took place and turned out very happily. We ourselves can bear witness to that as, having occasion to pass Johnny's house, we saw there his wife and children, who appeared prosperous and contented. Among other things this old sailor told us an amusing anecdote about his younger days, when serving in a man-of-war. It seems that the captain when ashore saw a boat's crew drinking in a licensed house instead of remaining at their post, and calling for paper wrote a letter to the first lieutenant, which he instructed them to deliver to that officer when they went on board. Fortunately they found out that it ordered them all to immediately receive a certain number of lashes. Shortly afterward, they met some Jews, who were always anxious to get on board for trading purposes, and were glad to become bearers of the letter in order to have an excuse. Accordingly they went off immediately, but as soon as the first lieutenant had read the peremptory command to give



NATIVES PREPARING FOR FEAST.

Face p. 63.]

a dozen lashes to the bearers he put the order into execution, in spite of the protests and explanations of the Israelites. When the captain came on board and heard what was done he was so afraid of the civil authorities that he ordered the anchor to be weighed and sailed away immediately.

There are great peculiarities connected with the family relations of the king. The people choose the royal wife, and her eldest son is the heir-apparent. If she have no male offspring her sister can be taken to wife by the king, and her son must be adopted as her own by the royal wife. Lobengula's eldest son, born to him when he was only an Induna, and not yet king, claimed to be a prince, and when the great men declined to accede to his request, went and committed suicide. His example was followed by a sister, who considered she was slighted by not being allowed royal rank. Their father greatly grieved both over the death, and the manner of

the death, of these children. As Buluwayo contains the royal kraal it is the chief town of Matabeleland. The population is about four thousand, and this includes three hundred fighting men. Of course there are large numbers of cattle and small stock. There are a few Angora goats, but these do not seem to be appreciated. The front entrance is through the kraal to the palace. Adjoining is the great square, comprising fifty acres of ground, where the annual dances take place. According to the superstition of the people, if anyone were seen to remove any filth from the kraal or great open square he would be presumed to do it for purposes of witchcraft, and his life would be in danger. When the old king Moselekatsi, reigned, his town was also called Buluwayo, but when he departed to the happy hunting grounds the old town was deserted and a number of things had to be buried with the departed.

Upon our return to the king's kraal, Umvusha, we called on his Majesty to thank him for allowing us to see over his house, and the usual roast meat and beer were given to us. We lost one of our best horses to-day from horse-sickness, and were therefore glad on the following day, 5th June, to see the country covered with frost. On Monday, 5th June, we had an interview with the king, which lasted two hours and a half, on the subject of our request for a mineral concession. Two Indunas were present, and this was unfortunate for us, because these men are always suspicious and make objections, and it is the policy of the king not openly to oppose the advice of his responsible advisers. The truth is that there is a large number of influential people opposed to the king, and he is obliged to be very politic and careful. One argument used was that there was really no gold in Mashonaland — "Phillips had said so,"

We were obliged, in self-defence, to say that in reality we were aware that Phillips' party had found gold. After the conversation ended without any result, we were invited to eat and drink as usual. The royal attendant who knelt and first partook of the beer is a great favourite of the king, and consulted in all matters connected with the household. A royal dance succeeded and closed proceedings.

One of the great drawbacks here is the distance from water—three miles. We have to walk in the morning there and back for our bath, which is very enjoyable, but we have to be careful of crocodiles. The cornfields all around are beginning to ripen for harvest, but no action can be taken until the king's word has gone forth ordering them to reap. The time of full moon is usually chosen. All over the kingdom there are spies and reporters, whose duty it is to keep the king acquainted with everything. He is consequently well aware of what is going

on, even to trivial details, and he is better able to administer justice and settle his disputes from his seat on the waggon box, where he listens patiently to all matters of dispute which require his adjudication or decision. Of course there are innumerable cases, and his time from morning to night is taken up with them. On one occasion, one of the slave girls whose duty it was to carry the royal calabash, appeared before the king with that article injured and partially broken. Lobengula turned round angrily to one of the Indunas and asked him if he had broken the calabash ; the man said that he had not, but he would find out who had. Shortly afterwards he returned with the culprit. His Majesty asked him for particulars of the breakage, but the poor culprit was too frightened to answer, and this annoyed the king so much that he got his gun and threatened to shoot him unless he spoke. This unloosed the man's tongue, and elicited the fact that he was in love with the slave

girl and courting her when the accident took place. The king then ordered one of the ears of this man to be cut off and flung to the dogs, which was done, remarking that these appendages appeared to be no use to him. Certainly there is great promptitude of decision. On one occasion a regiment in going through its evolutions did not give satisfaction, so the king in a rage brought out his shot gun and fired at them. They broke ranks and ran away to their barracks, but three of them died of the wounds inflicted by their angry ruler.

During our visit we had the opportunity of witnessing the inspection and manœuvring of one of the regiments. The men wore a kind of hood or mantle made of black ostrich feathers and a head-gear composed of sable plumes. Their legs were ornamented with pieces of skin and tails of small animals. Each man bore a shield of ox or cow hide which were all of the same colour, and the hairy side was always made to face the

enemy. Assegais and sticks of various designs formed their weapons. During the review the king remained seated in an arm-chair, while the commander of the regiment squatted on the ground beside him and communicated the king's orders. Those soldiers who had seen active service or killed any persons rushed out of the ranks, and by the number of imaginary stabs they gave indicated the number of persons they had killed. This regiment was called "Mabesis," styled royal, and considered to be of pure Zulu blood. The king has always one thousand fighting men ready for any emergency, which is styled his own regiment. Of course there are many "hot bloods" among the fighting men, and some time ago the permission of the king was asked for the massacre of every white man in his territory. Lobengula replied that the number in Matabeleland was so insignificant that no glory could accrue from murdering them, but that if they really wished to make

war properly they must go up to Kimberley and slaughter them there. The king's remarks and decisions frequently show considerable shrewdness, as, when a man came to complain that his brother was the custodian of his late brother's wife and family and stock, and that he was using them badly, the king said, "I will not decide the case to-day, as I am under the impression that you want the property into your own hands for your own purposes." This had such an effect that no more was heard of the matter. Frivolous and absurd complaints are numerous. When one man had told a story about being annoyed by a big black snake—"Go home," said the king, "catch him and roast him." Lobengula suffers much from gout, and in the attacks is restless, the one foot being constantly moved up and down. He is a sensible man, who has seen and talked with so many white people and had opportunity of testing the absurdities of native superstition so much, that it is very probable he would rule much

more on civilised principles than he does but that he fears to do so, as the people believe in the traditions of their forefathers and are wedded to their savage ideas and rites. The king himself is the rain-maker and has to use a good deal of prudence, observing the indications of the clouds and prudently delaying sometimes to call down rain until there is a reasonable chance of its coming. If he were to fail very much it is quite possible that the people would not only desire, but attempt to obtain, a successor.

The Matabeles possess the usual savage instinct in favour of war. Their desire for bloodshed is great, and Lobengula himself has been in serious frays. He bears testimony of this by a great scar on his neck, which is the remains of a wound which nearly cost him his life. He and his people are eminently warriors, and leave the arts of peace to the Mashonas, who make the picks used in agriculture, and also the assegais, wood-axes, battle-axes, knives, and pipes. Whenever a

commando is ordered out all the men are doctored, and even those who are left behind do not live with their wives until the commando returns and another doctoring takes place. As might be expected, the Matebeles are by no means fond of work, and only cultivate to a comparatively small extent, and in this they contrast very unfavourably with the Mashonas. As an indication of the great ferocity of the king, it may be mentioned that Lobengula had a favourite sister, with whom he was brought up from infancy. Nenuga and he walked and conversed together when children, and they were supposed to be tenderly attached to each other. Nevertheless when Lobengula became king he was prejudiced against his faithful companion by malicious stories which charged her with witchcraft, and he, consequently, put her to death. This belief in witches and the superstitions connected with it are awful curses, which can only be removed by Christianity. Constantly frightful deeds of in-

justice, cruelty, and blood are being perpetrated, because and on account of witchcraft. Some time before our visit to Matabeleland, a man who was leading a horse fastened the reins round his waist, when something startled the animal, which bolted and dragged him to death. The wife and sister happened to come together to the corpse, when the former accused her sister-in-law of having caused the accident by witchcraft, rushed at her with a knife, stabbed her to death, and then immediately afterwards cut her own throat! In Moselekatzi's reign a strong commando was ordered to proceed, under the leadership of the king, to the Zambezi, but some of the Indunas and their followers did not go, but entrenched themselves in the mountains, which so enraged the king that he ordered an Impi to utterly exterminate them, and this command was strictly obeyed. Thousands of men have been killed in the same way. Even the manner of slaughtering the lower animals is

barbarous. A sheep is killed by being pierced by an assegai behind the shoulder, and the thrust is made violently in order to reach the heart. The cattle are cut up in the kraal and placed upon a platform supported by poles erected for that purpose, and the butchers carrying the meat invariably salute the king by a certain form of words whenever he is present. When all the meat has been brought a division is made—one hind quarter, shoulder blade, and one flank is given to the head men of each kraal under whose charge the cattle slaughtered had been grazing. The king is very liberal in giving away meat to strangers—black or white—who may be present, and it is said has never refused applications.

After the death of Moselekatzi there was a president in the country for two years previous to Lobengula ascending the throne. Umhlata is the great man next to the king, and in case of the death of the monarch he would fill the gap until the successor was

chosen. Intogaloo and his brother, Bagnengewani, come next. There is no doubt that these men possess very great influence, and they are not liable to be accused of witchcraft, because supporters of the present Government; and whatever they do, therefore, is looked upon with no suspicion and considered to be for the benefit of the nation. They rank next to the king and are addressed by royal titles. A time had now come when we were very anxious to have an answer to our request for a concession. In an interview with Bagnengewani he held out very little hope to us of a favourable answer. We determined, however, to do everything possible to obtain our request. The Induna in charge of the royal town of Buluwayo called upon us, and we had to present him with a great-coat which he asked for; then came the eldest daughter of Lobengula, who had big feet, wanted a pair of boots and, in consequence of having lived at a mission station, was dressed in the Euro-

pean style and wore a pink print dress. She demanded a pair of boots, and was satisfied with strong men's Number 7 size, which seemed to suit her very well. These were obtained from the stock of one of the traders, and two sheep were asked for them, but the princess haggled over this, and at last a bargain was struck. We were surprised at the immense feet of this scion of a royal house, as the small feet and hands of thoroughbred colonial Kafirs is a subject of remark.

We heard anecdotes of Baines, the artist and traveller, and of several other well-known people who had visited this out-of-the-way region. Poor Baines was an excellent, unselfish man, who never made provision for a rainy day. "Sufficient for the day was the evil thereof," was his motto. He used to travel about lightly clad in a pair of one-and-sixpenny pants and a cotton shirt. He was slightly eccentric, and on one occasion, having a cold, thought a little

brandy would do him good, but before he drank it set it on fire. Old Moselekatzi was present watching proceedings, and after witnessing the wonderful draught rejoiced to find his friend was fireproof and did not fall down. Sandy Brown was a well-known character, who shot birds and sent them to Europe for collections, where they fetched a good price. One day after finishing his work he returned to his waggon, followed by his Kafir boy, and after a little time had elapsed was surprised that his attendant did not arrive. He went to look for him and found his remains mangled by a lion. He shot the wild beast, and congratulated himself upon the discrimination of the animal in preferring a black man to a white. The same man at another time had a narrow escape. On this occasion he was out courting at Tati, and the room in which he and the fair lady of his love were talking was one in which his mother-in-law was lying asleep with two of her children. Unfortunately the window

was open, and the lovers were startled by some intruder leaping in. Brown jumped up for his assegai and made a thrust at the stranger. Up jumped a large tiger, and in doing so tumbled over Brown, the lady, and the light. The two former lay perfectly still, not knowing what else to do that would have been of any use. This lasted some time, until at length they mustered courage to strike a light, when they found the unwelcome intruder had disappeared, having made his exit through the window. It seems that a cat had been lying on the inner sill, and that was the reason of this most unexpected visit.

In connection with the religion of this people we obtained a good deal of information. It seems that at one time the Matabele were very particular in observing a holiday at each new moon, when they rested from any labour, and prayer and sacrifice were offered by the high priest. Umhlata is the name of the man who now holds that office.

Cattle and goats are driven into a kraal ; the king and priest enter, and the latter offers up a prayer to their forefathers and to the Great Spirit, asking for a blessing. Then a man is selected to slaughter the animals; they are skinned and prepared for use, but on no consideration can any one partake of the meat until twenty-four hours have elapsed, so as to give the spirits ample time to select any one of the joints. As the departed are very considerate there are the materials for an ample feast left to the believers. In some places an attempt is made to refresh the spirits with a good drink of beer, and certain vessels are left at selected places filled with the choicest brew. In this case there are always hypocrites ready to trade on the credulity of the people, who drink the liquor themselves and pretend that the spirits have done so. The religion of this people is the same as that of the Spiritualists. They are always invoking the spirits of the departed, and believe in

them implicitly and make them *cuttus*, the religion of the nation.

They are not a whit more superstitious than table-rappers and furniture-movers of this enlightened generation in Europe and America. We were given to understand that at one time their religion was so strict that everyone who did not attend to it adequately was put to death.

CHAPTER V.

Father Prestage, head of the Jesuit Mission, called upon the king to-day. He asked and obtained permission to open a new mission. His order, generally so successful all over the world, has failed to gain a convert to Christianity in this country, and the reason is a very simple one. No commoner's life would be safe if he professed the white man's religion. They are besottedly attached to their own "Spiritualism," and of such a truculent and bloodthirsty character as to make conversion and martyrdom synonymous. It may be that it is in the interests of Christianity that Divine Providence is fast opening up Africa, and Christianity will yet triumphantly enter through the golden gates which will soon be thrown open.

Some customs of the people are peculiar. We had understood that no persons drank milk, but found that we were quite mistaken —boys and girls take sweet milk, but grown-up persons restrict themselves to that which is soured by remaining in a calabash or sack. Snake collectors, as well as bird collectors, hunt in this country, and we were amused at a story told of several Englishmen, who, for the purpose of preserving insects, snakes, &c., as well as for refreshment, purchased no fewer than 130 bottles of Three Star brandy—all they could procure—at a cost of £1 per bottle. Unfortunately, after a time all was consumed, except that in which the spiders, serpents, and other noxious animals were entombed, and yet several of the party earnestly wanted a drink. They tried the experiment of whether or not the liquor was dangerous upon one of their companions, and finding that he came scatheless out of the ordeal, went on using it up. One of their number, innocent of what

he had been drinking, was awfully sick when an explanation was given.

A curiosity that came under our notice is a large stone, about twenty feet above ground, ten feet in width and flat on the top, situate on the banks of the Daka river. On the front of this great slab is carved a man's foot, and the footprints of a lion; while on the side, carved to a depth of about one-and-a-half inches, are the footprints of various animals. Of course this is a chance which superstition cannot lose, and accordingly it is worshipped as a god. We noticed that although the Mashonas are a down-trodden and subject race, they have much more elevated notions of religion than the Matabele, as they believe in an unseen God who knows everything. They spoil this, however, by the silly statement that this god lives in a cave.

The Matabele are such ferocious savages that human life is held very cheap among them. Instances occur of men, women, and

children of an entire township being killed for the fault of the Induna, or of one man among them.

We had more than one interview with the king, and he always received us with courtesy and hospitality. On one occasion we had to wait three hours, as he was very busy making up medicine for the nation, and purifying himself with soap and water. From our observations, we thought favourably of Lobengula. There is undoubtedly much dignity and patience, combined with firmness, in his character. The greatest respect and fear are manifested towards him at his court. You see messengers and complainants coming and going all day long, and one is struck by the humiliating attitude of those who approach the king. They bow almost to the ground, and in this position approach his Majesty. Complaints are quickly heard and promptly decided upon. The men who were captured as boys, and received into the nation, can get permission



LOBENGULA'S ROYAL HUT.

Face p. 85.]

to seek service out of Matabeleland, but the Matabele themselves cannot obtain this privilege. The great queen did us the honour of visiting us one day accompanied by two other queens, and graciously presented us with a couple of bangles.

After various interviews, and much consumption of beef and Kafir beer, we saw the king alone, and we soon afterwards got the permission we asked for: to go and prospect. We were just about to start, when news came in of the death of one of the queens at Buluwayo, and a three days' mourning was ordered. Fortunately we had finished our business, and were not required to wait. We had heard a good deal during our enforced residence of the manners and customs of this Matabele nation, and were told many illustrative anecdotes. The power of the king is certainly on some occasions limited. Once, for instance, when he went out to hunt, thousands of people followed him and forced him, against his will, to come

back. At another time the king was amusing himself watching a number of boys fighting and desired that they should not be disturbed, but ten Indunas immediately disarmed them and put an end to the fray. We were told that some time before the women of a town had invited the king to come to a big dance, and on his not arriving rushed off and appeared in his presence for the purpose of compelling him to go. He got out of the difficulty by making out that a mistake, and consequent confusion, had occurred about the day of invitation.

The names of certain rivers, so far as we could get information, are as follows: —Imperkiss, and Umnzoma, and Inkuinkuis flow into the Guar; the Sango, Nongo, and Gualo are feeders of the Shangan; the Kleague and the Bembisi run into the Sebaque; the Setaque Umnyato flow into the Umfuli, and this last river into the Zambesi; Hanyana or Panyama flows into the Zambesi. Of course there

are many rivulets unnamed. There are several missionaries of the London Society, who have been stationed for more than twelve years in this country. They are qualified doctors, and one of them is a great believer in homœopathy. The Rev. Mr. Sykes has been twenty-nine years in Matabeleland, and it is said that on one occasion, when the king was listening to him, he adverted to God being the King of kings. It is said that as Lobengula takes this title to himself he did not wish the people to hear any more on this subject, and accordingly called out, "Sykes, the spokes of your waggon wheels are loose," which had the desired object of taking off the attention of the people from the subject.

The Catholics had a mission under Father Depelohin, who unfortunately broke his leg and returned to Belgium. He was succeeded by Fathers Prestage and Boom, who stationed themselves at old Buluwayo.

There was another mission of the same order at Tati under Father De Wet, who one day missed his dog which had been running behind him, to find that it had been seized and slain by a lion. This gentleman was unfortunately killed by a fall from his horse when on his way from the Blue Jacket reef to Tati. We find that there is a great deal of prejudice against Dutchmen amongst the Matabele. It is said that, unlike the English, they do not give presents, and that some time ago three hundred horses, guaranteed to be salted, were sold by Dutchmen for a large number of oxen, but that the horses died and the people who sold them have not been seen again. So bad, consequently, is the feeling, that when three Dutchmen arrived this morning one of the Indunas said that he would like to cut their throats. The post arrives once a fortnight, on Tuesdays, and is conveyed from Shoshong by runners, and each hunter and trader

Eye Sketch of Roads fro

by Captain H

Bechuanal

MANGWATO. 16½ miles Road leading all through the hills, heavy in places total 146½ miles Road generally very heavy

KURAMBELLA. 5½ miles Water in small pit to left of road, very good only sufficient for 5 horses road good.

MASHUE 27 miles Road very heavy in places country more open, water in rocky pool lately opened by Captain Campbell, sufficient for two Spans of oxen

LOPPE 11 miles Water in pits in dry Vley, very good water, permanent sufficient for 400 oxen per diem.

SEYUCE. 4½ miles Spring on surface only a track the road

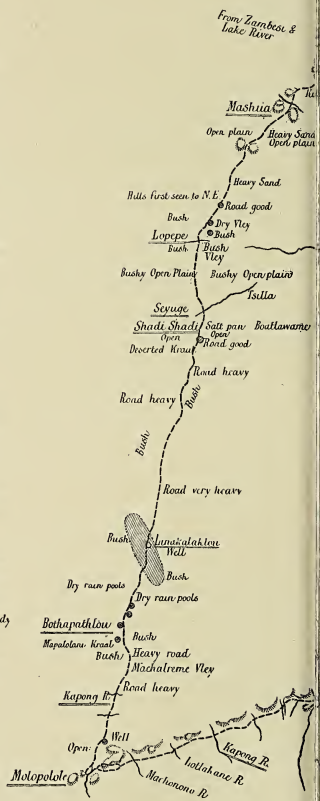
SHADI SHADI 37 miles Salt pan 3½ by ½ mile two wells, one at Western end the other S E both little water, slightly brackish, road heavy except last 6 miles Country here more open ground less sandy

LINAKALAKLOU. 15 miles Well dug by Captain Campbell dry Road very heavy been very little used.

BOTHAPATHLOU 15 miles Dry Vley often dry; water in small pits at bottom of Vley, at Southern end, reliable for about 10 horses - Road heavy

KAPONG. 9 miles. Small river generally dry, sandy bed, water got by digging not reliable

WELL 6 miles Small native well, sufficient water for about 6 horses Road good Country open Cultivated land



Scale, 10 statute miles to 1 inch

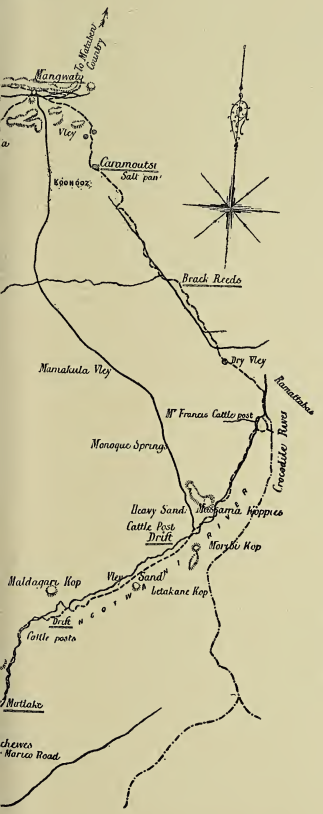
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Wyman & Sons 1st Great Queen St London

IOLOPOLOLE TO MANGWATO.

ɔLD ADAMS

Bʳ Police



MANGWATO	12 miles total 139½ approximate distances. Town of Kahama chief of the Bamangwato lies in Valley at Bottom of range of hills, water very scarce in dry weather
VLEY	10 miles generally reliable for water, road a little heavy
CARAMOUTSI	19 miles salt pan. Road runs up a long Valley by small stuit. water in it during rains. road good.
BRACK REEDS	(Brackish water) 23 miles from river 27½ from post. Road heavy in places no reliable water for cattle. Some small pits of natives for drinking water

TRANSVAAL

POST	29 miles at junction of Crocodile and Ngotwani River road branches off up Marico to Zeerust. The former River here being about 120 Yds bank to bank, never entirely dry, but often ceases to flow
NGOTWANI	A long but very narrow river. heavy timber on banks, the water lies in river bed a long time, only runs in the rains
DRIFT.	30 miles Road very good, thick bush water reliable in river bed. some where near cattle post, 2 miles beyond drift a few vleys along road. but not reliable
DRIFT	21 miles water in River bed, road good, bush very thick.
MAKLAKA.	Cattle post on river 3 miles generally water in river bed, road a little heavy on leaving "Linchewes" rest good bush commences
LINCHEWES	Town or Knolle 18 miles situated round the base of small hills some few on top, water procurable from river, in dry weather got in pits in river bed. Roads come from Macorso and Marico Road
KAPONG RIVER	24 miles rocky bed, road to here good, through thick bush. water permanent in small pool to right of road 100 yards.
MOLOPOLOLE	The chief town of Sechele. head of the Macquainas situated almost entirely on the top of a rocky height, only means of ascending with waggons being from N E the other paths being over large boulders perfectly impassable for wagons or mounted men. Some few huts and Missionary House School being at the base on the Southern side Two Stores, Messʳˢ Boyne, Gray and Walker and Anderson.

Hfodd-Adams Capt:
BSPolice

EYE SKETCH OF ROADS FROM MOLOPOLOLE TO MANGWATO.

BY CAPTAIN H GOOLD ADAMS

Bechuanaland Bc Police

MANGWATO 16½ miles Road leading all through the hills, heavy in places total 116½ miles Road generally very heavy

KURAMBELLA 5½ miles Water in small pit to left of road, very good only sufficient for 5 horses road good.

MASHUE 27 miles Road very heavy in places country more open; water in rocky pools lately opened by Captain Campbell, sufficient for two Spans of oxen

LOPPE 11 miles Water in pits in dry Vley very good water permanent sufficient for 500 oxen per diem

SEYUCE. 4½ miles Spring in surface only a trock the road

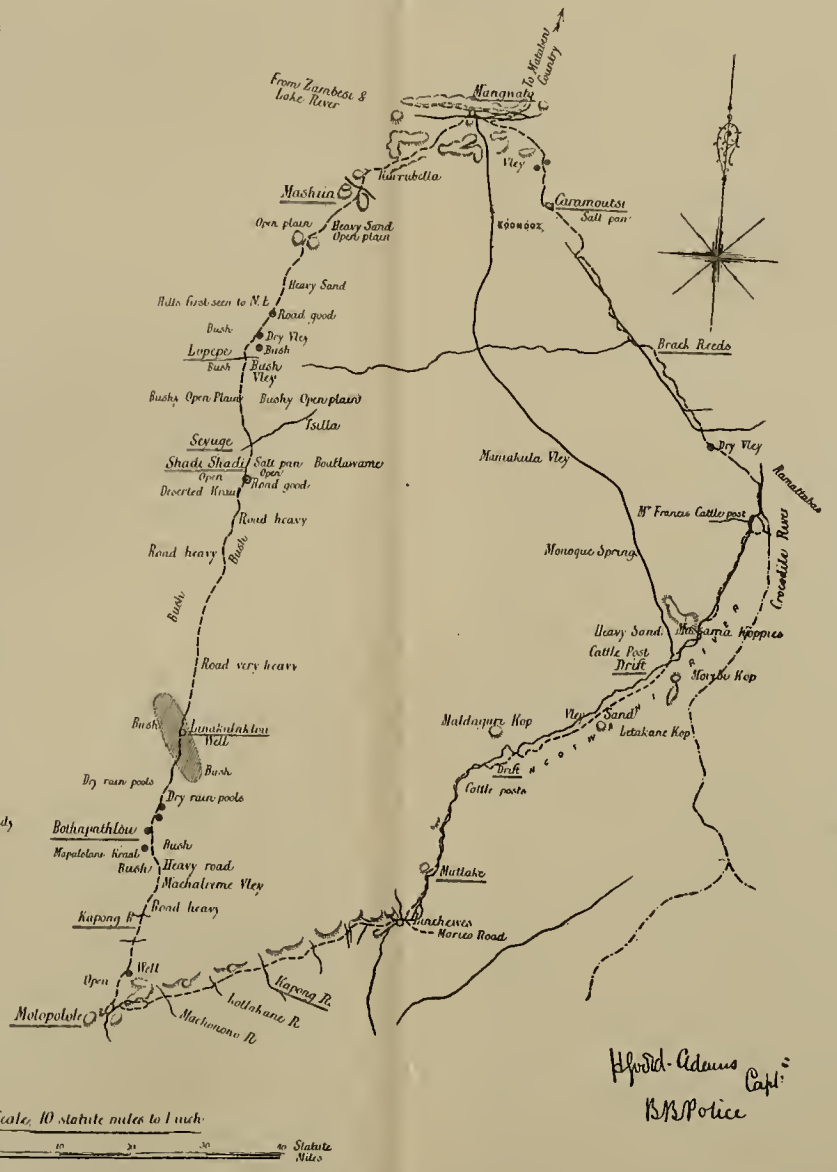
SHADI SHADI 37 miles Salt pan 1½ by ½ mile two wells, one at Western end the other S E both little water, slightly brackish, road heavy except last 6 miles Country here more open ground less sandy

LINAKALAKLOU 15 miles Well dug by Captain Campbell dry Road very heavy been very little used

BOTHAPATHLOU 15 miles Big Vley often dry, water in small pits at bottom of Vley, at Southern end; reliable for about 10 horses Road heavy

KAPONG. 9 miles Small river generally dry, sandy bed; water got by digging not reliable

WELL 6 miles Small native well sufficient water for about 6 horses Road good Country open Cultivated land



Scale 10 statute miles to 1 inch.

0 10 20 30 40 Statute Miles

H Goold-Adams Capt.
B.B. Police

MANGWATO 12 miles total 199½ approximate distances
Town of Kuhamm chief of the Bamangwato lies in Valley at bottom of range of hills, water very scarce in dry weather

VLEY 10 miles generally reliable for water road a little heavy

CARAMOUTSI 19 miles salt pan Road runs up a long Valley by small stuck water in it during rains road good

BRACK REEDS (Brackish water) 23 miles from river 27½ from post Road heavy in places no reliable water for cattle some small pits of natives for drinking water

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NGOTWANI A long but very narrow river heavy timber on banks, the water lies in river bed a long time, only runs in the rains

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KAPONG RIVER 24 miles rocky bed, road to here good, through thick bush, water permanent in small pool to right of road 100 yards

MOLOPOLOLE The chief town of Sechele head of the Marquainas situated almost entirely on the top of a rocky height, only means of ascending with wagons being from N E the other paths being over large boulders perfectly impassable for wagons or mounted men. Some few huts and Missionary House School being at the base on the Southern side Two Stores. Messrs Boyne Gray and Walker and Anderson

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resident here pays three guineas per annum towards the expenses.

It is Thursday the 16th June, and fine weather for a start. We have said good-bye to the king, who was very friendly, and wished us good luck. Away we go again for El Dorado, and find the first part of the journey over a deep sandy road. A native town had to be passed which contains aristocratic or full-blooded Zulus. They came out to look at us, seemed no way the better for heavy beer-drinking, and some of them tried to steal one of our dogs. They are an ill-conditioned set of people, and some months after we passed, the Protestant bishop, Knight Bruce, had to ride for his life away from them. We now passed through well-wooded country, with good pasturage but no game. Occasional corn-fields were seen. We passed a town named Imduba, which had been dismantled in consequence of the site being considered unhealthy. The

country is full of quartz and we passed several promising reefs. On Saturday, 18th June, we arrived at Inyatani, the leading station of Mr. George Martin, whose wife is the granddaughter of Mr. Montgomery, a settler of 1820, who founded Burghersdorp. They received us very hospitably, and it was pleasant to get butter and vegetables after our long abstinence from them. They have a good garden, and everything grows well, but stock does not answer well at this place. We found several wild fruits of the country whose qualities recommend them for acclimatisation in the Colony. Matabeleland is famous for its honey, and we saw a very small bee, not much bigger than a flea, which makes honey of a rich and excellent quality. The Martins say that they prefer the country to the Free State, and do very well in it. The Matabeles will not cultivate, but the Mashonas are a most industrious people, and produce large quanti-

ties of grain and vegetables. Unfortunately at the present time a marauding expedition has gone out to rob and murder those inoffensive people. Surely these raids are so terrible that they cry to Heaven for vengeance. This place was at one time old Moselekatzi's headquarters until he removed to Buluwayo. A tree is noticeable here, called "bus," whose bark is much better for tanning purposes than that of the mimosa. We saw beautifully prepared hides and skins. The petticoats of the women of cowhide look exactly like some imported cloth at a distance. It must be admitted that even in very cold weather the women of the greatest rank are but scantily clad. The queens of Lobengula, for instance, in addition to petticoats only wore a square of blue cotton stuff over the shoulders, and round the loins a strip of the same material. Of course there are bead ornaments, and we must not forget the crown, of some gummy substance and

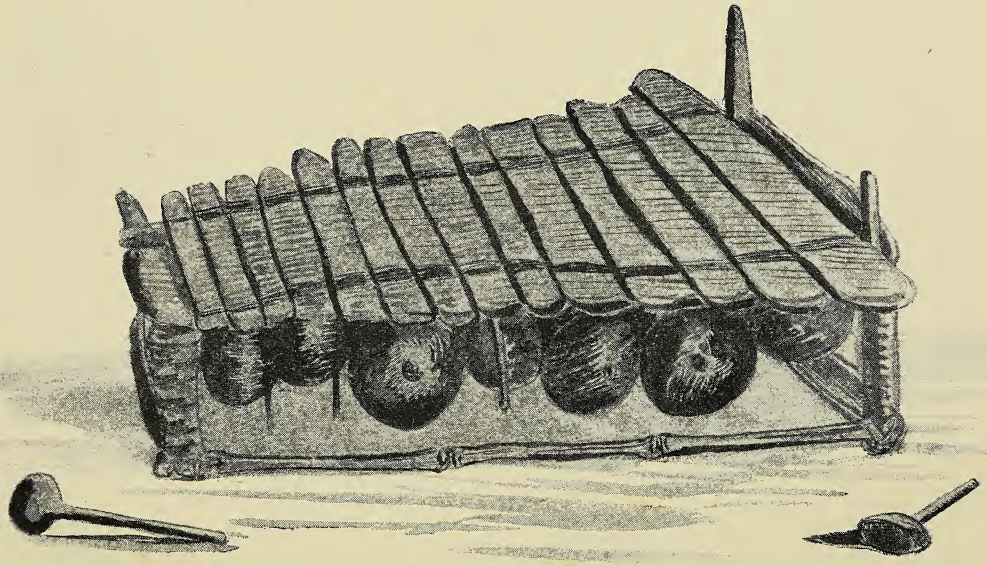
the size of a five-shilling piece, stuck at the back of the head.

The guides sent by the king, who are in reality spies to watch us, arrive and demand that an ox should be killed for them, as they are carnivorous animals, not accustomed to live on Kafir corn and mealies. They are very exacting and evidently determined to get everything they can. We march along with a good many camp followers, who travel with us for the sake of the venison they get. At each halting place the meat is cut into strips, placed upon sticks, and fires put underneath to smoke and dry it. The natives fight over a piece of meat like dogs, and go to their homes as soon as they have collected as much as they can conveniently carry. The waterbuck in this country resembles a donkey very much in size and appearance, with the exception of the horns, which are large in proportion to his body. We passed over some old rice-fields, and must observe

that the rice grown by the Mashonas is to our taste more palatable than that imported. Here unquestionably there were once industrious harmless people utterly destroyed and carried into captivity by the blood-thirsty Matabele. Immense crops could be raised in the Zambesi regions. As it is, the writer of this has ridden over thirty miles of rice-fields. The natives plant by digging round holes from about twelve to eighteen inches deep, and about two feet across ; six or seven grains of rice are placed in each hole. In the rainy season these holes retain sufficient moisture to enable the seed to grow and attain maturity. We passed several quartz reefs, and when camping out on the 14th July, some Mashonas rushed into camp declaring that they had seen a lion. All hands went out and discovered his spoor, but we were not afterwards troubled by him. We had now some difficulty in crossing rivers, and at one stream had to go considerably out of our

way, and make approaches to the drift so as to enable the waggons to cross. During the day—15th July—we shot one harte-beest, three roan antelopes, and one reed buck. Two men lost their way, and were very glad when they at last saw the waggons and reached their travelling home. On Saturday, 16th July, a number of Mashonas offered us curios, and a quill of gold washed in the river Comzesoe. They also got alluvial in the Imyani and Gansyani rivers, where it is well worthy of notice there is white quartz with gold visible in it.

We passed a Mashona village, where the people lived in huts and caves. The women and children were extremely timid, and all the people had a wretched hunted down look, as they never know when they may be attacked by the bloodthirsty Matabele. One thing that surprised us very much was the miserable way in which the people were clothed in very cold weather. It is rare to find a Mashona who has not part of his body



MASHONA PIANO.

Face p. 95.]

burned from lying too close to a fire, and it is wonderful that they do not make some sort of karosses or coverings of skin for themselves. It was interesting to watch a Mashona blacksmith at work, beating and welding iron. The tools used were, a tongs, a piece of the bark of a tree doubled in the centre, a piece of iron bent at one end for stirring up the charcoal. The smith, standing by, gave directions where to strike and when. The striker used a round piece of granite about ten pounds in weight as a hammer. This was applied with both hands and with great effect upon the heated iron. I noticed that the smith had an iron hammer, about four lbs. in weight, of his own manufacture. The bellows was constructed from two kids' skins—the neck part of each skin was left open. The operator held the necks one in each hand, rapidly moving his hands up and down, which gave sufficient blowing power to make the charcoal burn up and heat the iron. In this home-made bellows

there was a wooden tube or pipe attached to one leg of each skin, then connected with a clay pipe, which conveyed the draught to the charcoal. The anvil used was a granite block. Each of the three men who took part in the smithing work wore a small covering of grass on his head. There, in a mountain stronghold and within a cave, this strange sight had a weird and extraordinary appearance never to be forgotten. The poor Mashonas perched up in this natural fortress always keep a sentinel on the look out for the dreaded Matabele. They have lands in the neighbourhood, and there the cultivation takes place of mealies, Kafir corn, and a grain like the latter, but perfectly white and flat. On Monday, 18th July, we had arrived so far in the country that it was necessary to leave our waggons for fear of the tsetse fly, always fatal to cattle. We shot this day two hartebeest, one roan antelope, and later on a bustard, eland, and a sable antelope. It was interesting to notice the banana grow-

ing wild in this part of the country, and we were pleased to be able to purchase lemons. The hills where we are at present are named Zebamziqua, and from a conversation between Malabama and one of our party, which was interpreted to us, we learnt that some time ago one of Lobengula's marauding parties defeated the Mashonas here and pursued them to a hole or cave, where they took refuge, then burned them out and cruelly stabbed to death with assegais seventy men and women, while they took the children captive. Plenty of game we got on the 19th July, two quaggas, three roan antelopes and one hartebeest. Seventy meat carriers bore the spoil to the camp.

On Wednesday, 20th July, we discovered an old ruin, and in another direction the remains of an ancient furnace were seen, where iron stone had been smelted. It must be remembered that there were Jesuit missionaries in this kingdom of Monomotopa

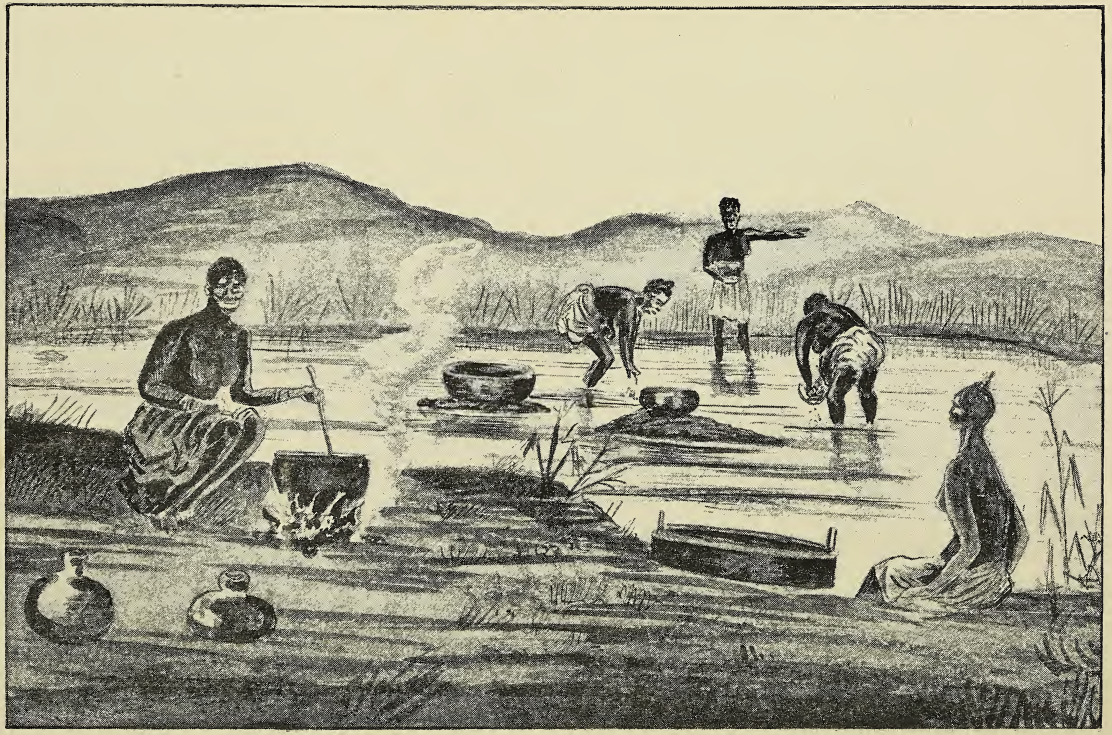
"rich in gold" in the sixteenth century. The Portuguese themselves must have visited various portions of it, and probably carried on trade; then there are the ancient Phœnicians who built "Zembabye" and similar places. On Thursday, 21st July, we determine to proceed on horseback, carrying meat supplies with us. We notice many old shafts where gold was worked for in former times. We are now in the country of the elephant and of the wild ostrich. We find the nest of one of the latter, with no fewer than twenty eggs in it. On Friday, 21st July, it is reported to us by one of our Mashona guides that there is gold in the valley Sayonka and neighbourhood, and we panned some of the ground pointed out to us as gold-bearing, but did not succeed in finding any. Saturday, 24th July, travelled over very hilly country with beautiful and well-watered valleys. In this Mashona country we learn of certain peculiarities of the people, which does not make it at all

surprising that there should be no cohesion among them, and that consequently they fall an easy prey to the Matabeles. It appears that when in one district there had been very good crops, it is not uncommon for those who have been less prosperous to attack the fortunate ones with a view to plunder. There is no unity or aspiration for combined action to insure protection.

Messengers come down from the Mashonas on the hill inquiring who we are, and, in reply, we send a message of peace. Upon this several of them arrived at our camp, and when they saw the Matabeles were evidently afraid. Afterwards some mealies and a quill of gold were bought for barter. The Portuguese have evidently washed for gold, or at least purchased it within a comparatively recent period, and the natives speak well of them. We are greatly hindered from getting valuable information by the presence of the Matabele spies. Among some of the Mashonas who visited us and

saluted us with hand-shaking and clapping of hands was a venerable looking man with grey beard, and this party brought us a quill containing more than an ounce of gold. They also said that they had more at their huts, and were willing to show us where to get gold. In the night we were annoyed by two lions, who approached close to us, and we were certainly not assured by being told that on several occasions man-eating lions have seized a man and carried him off, leaping the enclosure in doing so without any difficulty.

On 52th July more quills of gold were brought to us, and we were told that here at the river Omtalugoner the Portuguese washed alluvial about twenty years ago. The mountain above is called Imbaba, and seems to be one mass of iron-stone. The valley where gold is found we named the Mimosa Golden Valley. It is from fifteen to twenty miles in length and varies in width from three hundred to one thousand yards.



MASHONA WOMEN WASHING FOR GOLD.

Face p. 101.]

Here the inhabitants suffer from fever in summer, and last season five children died of it. We remarked a number of lemon trees in this vicinity, and believe that these were planted by early settlers or gold-seekers and are not indigenous. Now comes our opportunity of seeing Mashonas washing gold, and we take advantage of it, and in the course of three-quarters of an hour see several pieces of fine and coarse gold obtained. Each woman had a wooden dish from eighteen to twenty-four inches long and about twelve inches across, in shape something like a canoe. In the centre of the dish is a hollow place about the size of a shilling, a quarter of an inch deep, which is the receptacle for the gold. The earth is taken from the banks of the river and the crevices between the rocks and reeds. After being placed in the dish it is washed in a most vigorous way, so violently indeed that any one unacquainted with their style of washing would think most of the gold must be lost.

It occurred to us that a white man with good appliances would be able to wash out an ounce per day, and that in this industry there is employment for thousands. It is noteworthy that the Mashonas specially claim this territory as their own, and do not acknowledge any claimant whatsoever. Every summer the Portuguese trade with them, and we were told that on many occasions they have given slave girls for gold. This is certainly a beautiful country and seems suitable for stock. There are mountains, fine valleys, and good rivers. The Mashonas tell us that the entire district is auriferous, and to judge from extensive abandoned rice-fields must at one time have carried a large population.

The next river we come to is called the Zambi or Tsambi, and we are now only a day from the tsetse fly, and close to the Mazoe river, which is reported to us as very rich in gold.

On Friday, 29th July, we met a number

of Mashonas, who had been sent by their chief to invite us to his principal place, and have encamped on the spot pointed out to us by them. Subsequently we received a present, accompanied by a message, stating that the chief was always glad to welcome white men. As one of our party would go out to hunt, taking the interpreter with him, this seemed to give offence, and no visit was paid to us. Subsequently we were told that the chief had gone to visit his god, and ask him to be kind to the white man. At last the great man, named Negoma, came to see us, and it was pleasing to notice with what graceful courtesy some Mashona women, who were passing, bent down before their recognised chief. The men saluted him by the clapping of hands. He claims to be the rightful owner of all the country for three days' march from his village towards the Zambesi, bounded on one side by the Mazoe river.

We now pushed on to the river Desomwi, which we were told had not yet been tested, and having employed eighteen Mashona women to wash alluvial, were pleased to find their labours successful in obtaining both fine and coarse gold.

The natives tell us that the River Derura, four days' from our camp, is the richest, and that nuggets are easily found there. Strange to say, the people have a superstition about fine gold being derived from nuggets, and think that if the latter be taken out, no more gold will grow.

We passed several tracts of land prepared for cultivation, and noticed here that trees were cut down, spread upon the ground, and when the branches are dry they are burned and the ash picked into the soil. This country is full of quartz reefs, and in some places we see pieces which seem to have been buried. Having tried another stream successfully, and obtained all the information possible, we have come to the conclusion that all the



MASHONA HUT.

Face p. 105.]

rivers and rivulets are gold-bearing, and that the alluvial must be very extensive.

Seeing at a distance what we imagined was a troop of baboons on distant high reefs, we were surprised to find when we came nearer that they were human beings intrenched in this natural fortress. We went to see these poor cave-dwellers, and it was sad to notice how they were obliged, in a land of plenty, to huddle together for fear of the ruthless Matabele, and to even offer their children for sale to us in order to reduce the number of consumers among them. So far as gold is concerned, its value does not seem to be adequately known, as we saw fully half-an-ounce given for two cotton handkerchiefs. What a country this would be for missions if the huge Matabele barrier were withdrawn. The people are mild, inoffensive and industrious. We were quite struck by the frequent prayers of one of the chiefs, and they can easily be taught and raised in the scale of civilisation. This is veritably

the country of Afric's golden sands, when large quantities of the precious metal can be obtained and as soon as the country is placed under good management it will attain a happy and prosperous condition.

A strange sight greeted us in one place, where we beheld ten Mashona women busily hunting for mice, which are esteemed a dainty. They are so skilful and expert that their value as mice catchers would be considerable on many a Colonial farm.

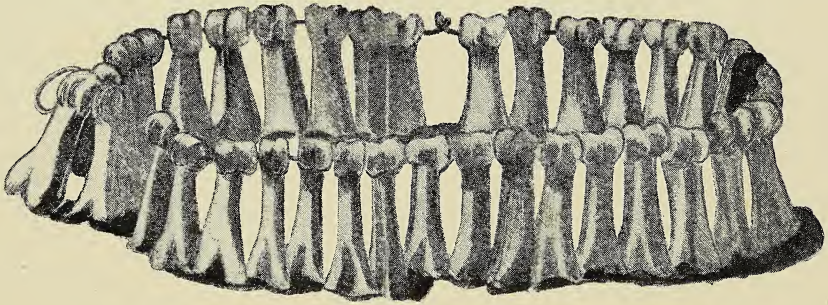
More washing for gold goes on at other streams, and always successfully. In fact, there were no streams in which we tried where we did not succeed.

On Saturday, 6th August, we retraced our steps to the waggons, and when we noticed the large area of splendid land that could be cultivated, and how suitable generally the country is for stock as well as agricultural farming, with water in abundance, and game all along the route, we could not help coming to the

conclusion that it is destined for a large population.

On Sunday, 7th August, three quills of gold were brought into camp, one of which contained very coarse pieces, exactly like brass filings, but we applied the usual tests and found it was the precious metal. This was washed in a river which flows into the Mazoe. At the same time we were favoured with a visit from "a wise man," who bore four peculiar-looking tablets in his belt which he used for purposes of divination. He threw them and told the fortune by the manner in which they fell, what side was uppermost, &c. This superstition extends among all the native races. In the Colony there are people who pretend to be able to give information about lost or stolen cattle, as well as cure diseases, tell what is going on in distant places, whether your family far away are sick or well. One commandant of police had so much faith in one of these wise men that he made him always accom-

pany him in his inspections and patrols so as to find out and declare where stolen stock was to be found. A brother and a nephew of the writer were once on their way to the Diamond Fields when they lost their oxen, and when all hope of recovering them had been given up, one of these wise men informed them where to look for them, and they were recovered in the place indicated. An ex-member of the Legislative Council of Natal once informed us that he was greatly struck with a narrative told him by a person in whom he could believe. This man was a complete disbeliever in native conjuring, and happened, when travelling, to be at a place where a wise woman, by means of certain charms or incantations, gave him minute information about where his waggons were and what had happened on the journey. When they arrived he found that she had been perfectly accurate. He still went on, however, in a very rude manner declaring that she was a humbug, until the woman



NECKLET OF HUMAN BONES.

Face p. 109.]

became enraged and said, "White man, you asked me for certain information. I gave it. What I told you was correct and you abuse me. For this I curse you." She then foretold that his oxen would die on the journey, some of the people would lose their lives and others would desert him. All happened as she predicted, and the man was ruined. There is nothing older than divination, and we find in the Old Testament several laws against consulting diviners, witches, fortune-tellers, and other evil agents of superstition.

CHAPTER VI.

On the 10th of August we passed immense flats of rich soil very suitable for rice cultivation, and we also noticed good-looking quartz reefs. There were numbers of mimosa trees. We had the great pleasure of encountering Selous and his party of hunters, who had six tent waggons, and were in every way well equipped. Close to their camp was a large quartz reef over two hundred feet wide. To show the vicissitudes experienced in this country, we were now for days confined to one meal, as there was an absence of game, although sometimes we revelled in the midst of plenty. Although the nights were sometimes exceedingly cold, we found the heat of the sun in the daytime very great. On Sunday, 14th August, we reached the camp of a

Mashona chief, named Lomengonda, who claims all the country from the Umfuli to the Zinyati river, and rules over about fifteen hundred souls. He has several petty chiefs under him, and prides himself upon being the proprietor of several gods, of whose power, we were given to understand, even Lobengula thinks a good deal. He receives a yearly present from the Matabele king. This chief desired to dispose of some Mashona boys, who had been given to him in payment of debt. In accordance with the custom of these people, such sales are very frequent, and anyone can for a gun worth five pounds buy a boy or girl to become his slave for life. On the Monday, 15th August, we passed a hill of quartz quite three hundred feet in height. This and many others we might have endeavoured to prospect but for the presence of the Matabele guides or spies sent with us by Lobengula. It was strange that so little notice was taken of endeavouring to

get gold in rivulets, but so soon as it was attempted in quartz the most violent opposition was met with. Now there is an objection made to our going any further. In this part of the country we are charmed with the scenery and the beautiful forest trees which surround us. Strange to say, very few birds are ever to be seen, and we attribute this to the extraordinarily large number of hawks which prey upon them. The Mashonas in this part of the country remind us very much of Bushmen, as they neither sow nor reap, but depend upon wild fruits and roots for a subsistence. We are told that the better class of Mashonas have their own marriage laws, under which there is always a price for the wife, which the man is expected to pay up after the birth of the first child. If he be not able to pay after the second child is born, then he and his wife become servants to the family and have to become hewers of wood and carriers of water all their days. On the 17th of August

we halted at the river Ganyani, where we had great sport with hippopotami and crocodiles. We shot two of the former. Reefs again. They are very numerous. Indeed, we may say truly that we have seen sufficient to give employment to every man in South Africa.

After viewing several miserable Mashona villages, we were agreeably surprised by arriving at a Mashona town named Zenor, where the people appeared happy and contented. It was enclosed by a fortification of poles for protection against attacks from wild beasts. There was plenty of grain, and the general prosperity was accounted for by the fact that these people acknowledged the Matabele king and paid him regular tribute. This will no doubt last for a certain time, and then, when they are specially prosperous, there will be a "smelling out," and woe betide them if they are unprepared for combat. Here we came upon one of the old gold workings, and one of these days, no doubt,

there will be a successful mining company here. On Thursday, 18th August, our men were all busy cutting up the seacows, some of them fighting for tit-bits, and others to get as great a quantity of the meat as possible. We threw a charge of dynamite into the river and got more fish than we could use—some of them weighing fourteen pounds. We fired at crocodiles, but this was against the law, as these man-eaters are sacred animals, and if we had been informed on would have been promptly ordered out of the kingdom, our possessions forfeited, and all chance of getting a concession lost. As it was the chief spy, who says he looks with the king's eyes and hears with the king's ears, suspected us of the awful crime. He said that the monarch manufactured from the crocodile his best medicine, which caused rain to fall and made men stronger in battle. On the 22nd of August we met several Mashonas—men and women—who lived like Hottentots on fruits and roots.

These people pay more respect to the dead than to the living, and it is curious to notice how particular they are in adding to the cairns of stones which mark a burial place.

We have come across curious old gold workings in the form of old pits, from which the precious metal has been extracted. The general appearance of these is somewhat similar to what one would expect to see near a town where numbers of brickmakers had been at work without any systematic plan of operations. In the *débris* there was a large quantity of quartz and red soil. Near here, we saw the most likely-looking reef for crushing we had yet beheld. On the 24th of August, we determined that our explorations had been continued sufficiently far, and we were the more disposed to return from the fact that the deadly tsetse fly had been seen on our horses. We ourselves had been bitten by this insect, but without any bad effect. On the 27th, when we were shooting in the bush, three lions came

out at a considerable distance from us. These were the first we had seen in daylight. On Sunday, 28th August, we found ourselves, to our great delight, at Selous' camp, and there enjoyed the pleasant society of the great hunter, as well as of the gentlemen who accompanied him. Some of them had been hunting on the borders of Umzela's country, and were surprised to find many Mashonas living near the Bozarwe and other rivers running into the Sabi, which is a tributary to the Barotse. It appears that they are a happy and prosperous people, possessing abundance of cattle and grain. The three principal men among the Mashonas are Gato, Kwiremba, and Sopiro. To the east of the Barotse river are the Makani, and south-east the Umtata or Mahundye. The height of Gato's town above sea-level is 4,300 feet, Sopiro's 3,000 feet. Other localities are as high as 5,000 feet. Mr. Selous is reasonably of opinion that the greater part of Mashonaland is a

good stock and agricultural country—suitable for white emigrants. The Zambesi is only about 200 miles off, and forms the natural outlet for trade. Mr. Selous' party had met with various adventures, including an attack by a wounded lion, which only got one of his paws on the horse and was promptly kicked off. A brown snake was picked up by one of the party in mistake for a piece of wood. Certainly there are many drawbacks to the enjoyment of life in this country. Men live "in constant alarms," and this was emphasised when Selous received a message informing him that the Matabeles had orders to kill his servants It appears that an Impi out marauding had reported to the king that Selous was digging for gold and had been seen with a white stone in his hand. What a white man feels in the interior of the dark continent is that there is really no protection for life, and it is only valued similarly to that of the brute creation. The miserable petty

tyranny of native rulers effectually stops progress, and the real remedy seems to be such an influx of white population as to sweep barbarism aside, and afford opportunities for the development of the country.

At the Umfuli river there are several old gold workings or pits, and it was said that Phillips was going to work them, but Lobengula peremptorily ordered him to desist. No quartz prospecting was allowed on any account, under the evident idea that it would lead to the occupation of the country by the white man. So far as hunting was concerned, we had nothing to complain of. On the 7th of September, one of our party—an experienced hunter named Van Rooyen—called out that he saw game, and with the assistance of an opera glass we made out a herd of elands. We soon got within gunshot of eighteen of these animals, and shot no fewer than thirteen—two of which were wounded and not found. Eight fell to Van Rooyen's gun. During our journey we had

generally plenty of meat, and were able to exchange it among the Mashonas for grain. Out of nine quaggas that our party saw to-day, five were shot. Here we got some wild fruit about the size of a walnut, and of a black colour, named "kardumples" by the Dutch, and found them very agreeable. The Mashonas attending our camp offered for barter, grain, picks, assegais, axes, battle-axes and knives, as well as a variety of other things. Among the last-named was a man's top-knot or twelve months' clip of hair in the grease, offered for a few beads. We were pleased to notice that the Mashonas seemed an honest people, as articles lost from the waggon were found and restored by them. This conduct was in contrast to that of the Matabeles. From the place where we were encamped we could see a mountain 1,700 feet high, named by the Mashonas "Wedzar" or "Look-out." And here we were introduced to a tree called "macoona," which burns as well in its green state as

other woods do when dry. The root is edible, and the natives are fond of it. Another of the witch doctors or wise men of the Mashonas encountered us, and he would not part with his conjuring tablets for any price. When asked a question, he took two of them in each hand, then clapped them all together, and threw them upon the ground. After several throws he gave the answers, which were considered satisfactory. Van Rooyen, the hunter, firmly believes in these men, and told us that on one occasion he asked if he would have luck on the next day's hunting, and received for answer, "Yes,—five wild ostriches will be seen and a cock and a hen shot." This actually took place as predicted. On another occasion he asked the same person what success he would have elephant hunting, and received for answer that he must be very cautious or otherwise he would meet with an accident, and sure enough, several days afterwards a bull elephant chased Van Rooyen, who on

trying to escape came across a game pit with sharp stakes at the bottom, but Van Rooyen, who was well-mounted, managed to clear the obstacle. A branch caught him, however, and he was thrown on his back. The elephant did not continue the pursuit. It seems that these pits are very numerous, and that the natives with diabolical cries drive the game towards them. Mr. Burnet, one of Johnson's party, was present when these stories were related, and told us that some years ago when travelling, his party lost their oxen at night, and searched for them for days without success. They consulted a witch doctor, who told them that the animals had been stolen, and that the thieves, to prevent discovery, had driven them many miles along the river in the water. This intelligence resulted in their recovery. The last anecdote we will give on this subject of witch doctors' powers was supplied by Van Rooyen, who told us that on one occasion, when out with a guide

hunting, and finding nothing, a witch doctor told them that there were two cow elephants not far off. When they expressed doubt, he declared his "dollhosses (tablets) could not lie," and sure enough they shortly afterwards saw the two elephants and shot one of them. We all believed the statements given, as we had no reason whatever to doubt the truthfulness of the persons who made them.

We went with Van Rooyen to one of the Mashona towns, where he wanted to obtain picks, and on our way we met people playing on musical instruments of their own manufacture. Pre-eminent among these is the Mashona piano, with keys made of steel and struck by the fingers. It is, however, a small thing about ten inches square placed in a large calabash, a portion of which is cut away. The music elicited far surpasses expectations. Some of the young men are such good musicians that it would really pay to take them to civilized countries in order that, dressed in native garb, they might give

performances there. The Mashonas in this place had never seen a horse before, and were delighted to gaze upon those we had brought with us. Here we secured some good curios and a little coarse gold. Near our camp a very good quartz reef was noticed and an excellent supply of water. Among the things we saw, when at this town, was a sweet-smelling root used by some traders for children who suffer from convulsions and declared to be a specific. This part of the country is peopled by industrious, happy people, who reap good harvests. They offered us corn, battle-axes, wood-axes, knives, gold, beer, tobacco, assegais, skins, and musical instruments. Gold is frequently to be obtained in quills at a very low price, but the Matabele forbid its purchase. They take it down, however, to the Portuguese. We went up to see the chief in his hut in a rocky fastness, and were given beer, which we thought much better than that brewed by the Matabeles. There is no missionary of

any sort among these poor people, and they are so fond of the white man that one would exercise a great influence. We found that among the Mashonas the mother-in-law is much respected, at least the mother of any girl sought in marriage is so reverenced by the suitor that if she passes him he is obliged by custom to go on his knees and wait there until she has gone some distance. He must also never speak to his inamorata when she is alone and absent from home. In fact, there is a complete code of regulations which has to be learnt. No one who understands the subject can fail to perceive that this is a splendid country for cotton cultivation. The people themselves are naturally clever mechanics and could be made a flourishing industrial people. May a time soon come when the Matabele incubus will be removed.

Van Ryooen was a most experienced hunter whose adventures were numerous. Of course he had encountered lions on many

occasions and had some very narrow escapes. I will only give one out of several of his adventures. On one occasion travelling in this part of the country he went out with horse and gun in pursuit of game, and when he came near a herd was surprised to see the animals suddenly disappear as if panic struck. Dismounting, he lay on the ground behind an ant-heap, but as nothing passed he mounted again and moved further on, when he was immediately confronted by a lioness. Determining to take as good an aim as possible, he got off his horse, and firing with steadiness and deliberation succeeded in killing it. Mounting again, he had hardly got seated, when his horse gave a great bound, and, looking round to find out the reason, he was horrified to find a lion following close behind. Then came a race for life, in which he was only able to escape by his horse being exceptionally swift, and the lion being forced to stop before he could make a spring. Several hunters now alive would be

with the great majority if lions could make a leap when running.

There is a general impression that a hunter's life in the dark continent is an adventurous and enjoyable one. It may be interesting to give a brief sketch of the life of one of these men from boyhood to manhood. He was twenty-six years of age, and left the Colony with his parents in the year 1868. "Then I was eight years of age, and one of my first adventures was slipping off the waggon, when the front wheels passed over my right leg and breast, and I was not restored to perfect health until four years afterwards. In trying to catch horses I mounted a fiery beast, could not keep him in, and unfortunately, in the midst of his wild career he put his foot in a hole, and I was thrown off and my arm broken. In 1875 I was hunting buffaloes with my late brother, when having wounded a bull, the herd only being twenty yards off, I discovered the cap had fallen off the muzzle of the gun just

when about to fire the other barrel. Fortunately there was a thick bush near, where we retreated, and found protection with the accident of only spraining my ankle, which laid me up for twenty days. In 1876 I slipped off the dissel-boom of a waggon, and the wheels passed over my shoulders, preventing me from using one arm for six months. When hunting elephants on one occasion in 1877, and having been lucky enough to shoot five, went to bathe in a river, when exceedingly hot, and as a consequence suffered from rheumatic fever and have pains even to the present day. In trying to escape from an elephant had a fall with my horse and injured my leg severely. After that I escaped until 1883, when my horse put his foot in a hole and threw me with violence against a tree, the flesh being torn from knee to thigh. In 1885 at Pretoria was ruptured by trying to lift bags of 200 pounds weight. Hunting koodoos afterwards put my foot out of joint, and had afterwards for some time

to use crutches. Three months subsequently was thrown heavily when galloping on horseback and broke my wrist and one of my ears much injured. The pain from this accident was so great that for fifteen days and nights I could neither eat nor sleep. I have been several times laid up with fever, and although only twenty-six years of age, feel quite fifty." A hunter's life is one of great peril, anxiety, and hardship. Frequently fever must be endured, and accidents are numerous. The old hunter Hartley's days were shortened through an accident with a rhinoceros. Piet Jacobs, a great hunter, on one occasion rushed out when the boys cried out that a lion was trying to catch his horse. He wounded the wild animal, and the dogs seized him, but unfortunately let him go, when he fell upon Jacobs, and bit him badly about the legs and arms. The wounds were only partially cured, for ten years afterwards they broke out afresh and caused his death. It is now

only fair to admit that there is often a brighter side to the hunter's life than we have yet shown, and in illustration of the fact sketch the sporting career of a young and fortunate hunter. He was only thirteen years of age when he accompanied his father when twelve elephants and thirty-five buffaloes were shot. In the next season eleven elephants were shot, fifteen ostriches, and twenty-seven elands, besides, of course, other game. In the fifth season at the Tati this young hunter shot forty-one cameleopards, seven buffaloes, and 150 head of small game. "For two years afterwards I suffered from fever and could not hunt. The next year I killed twenty-one elephants, fourteen ostriches, fifty-one elands, besides a very large number of other game. We never count birds at all. In the next season twenty-eight buffaloes, fifty-five elands, forty roan antelope, thirty-five hartebeest, a large number of quaggas, besides sable antelope, two lions, and twelve ostriches. I had had as

much as twenty-two pounds ten shillings for the feathers of one ostrich. This year shot fourteen elands, four ostriches, eighty-five quaggas, hartebeest, sable antelope, eight hippopotami. I have frequently hunted in company with Selous, Collison, and others. I am tired and sick of hunting, and will not pursue it longer than one season after this. Hope this country will soon be populated with white men, who could readily get a living in it. One thousand men accustomed to ride and shoot would be quite sufficient to take the whole country, and I should like to be one of them. I am intimately acquainted with the Matabele country, and the Macloutsie river is, I know, the recognised boundary between Khama's country and Lobengula's." This statement is borne out by Montgomery and many others.

When we arrived at Inyati (Martin's) on our return journey, the luxury of beds was at our disposal, but the white ants were so numerous and destructive

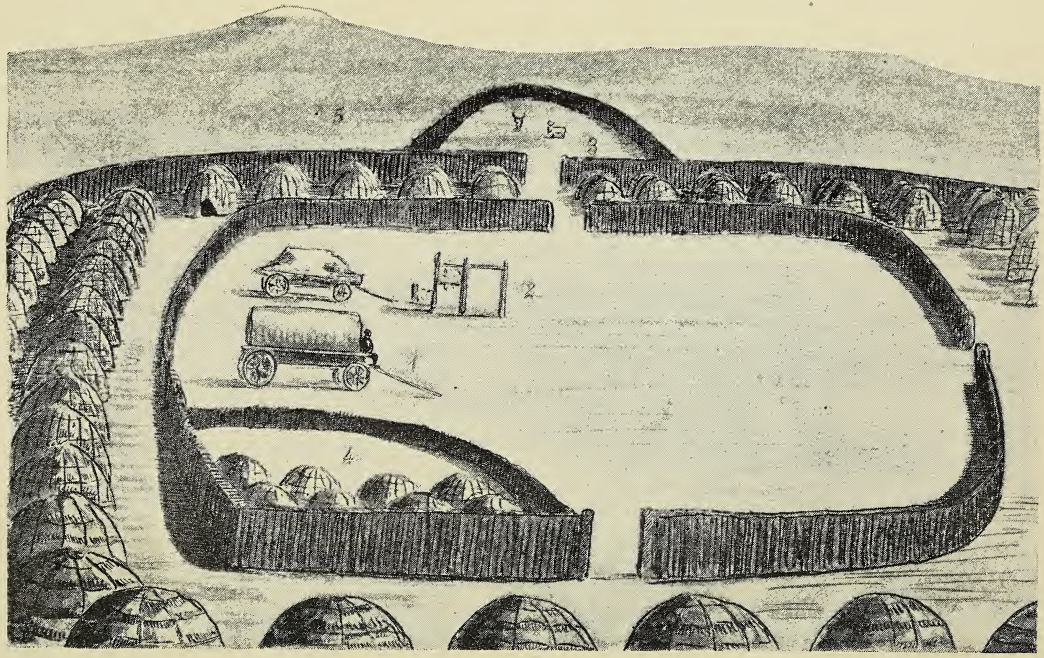
that sleep was impossible. We soon afterwards arrived again at the camp of Lobengula, the great Matabele king, and found that there were others, beside ourselves, desiring mineral concessions. We were given to understand that the presence of old traders in our party by no means commended our syndicate to the favour of the king. It seems that some of these men make very bad bargains, and as an illustration of this statement we were told that Lobengula said that he can never forgive a man who, when he was a youth, gave him a tin mug worth about a shilling, and subsequently demanded a tusk of ivory in payment under the threat of reporting the matter to the king. Lobengula gave the tusk to put an end to the dispute. On the 11th of October, Major Edwards breakfasted with us, and mentioned that in 1869 he was prospecting with Sir John Swinburne and a professional miner, when they came upon some old diggings at Umfuli, where they saw gold in the quartz.

There was one block left by the old gold seekers which was so rich that a miner stated it would give seventy ounces to the ton. Sir John Swinburne had wonderful opportunities, but entirely concentrated his attention on the Tati fields. The well-known, good, and honest traveller, Thomas Baines, obtained a great gold mining concession from Lobengula, and a company was formed in London which never seriously went to work, but was contented with a few favourable assays.

CHAPTER VII.

Now that we had arrived at the king's kraal our difficulties began. We were most desirous of having the interview about our concession when Major Edwards could be present, but this we found impossible. Delay after delay took place, and at last to our great disappointment, that gentleman was compelled to leave. On Friday, 21st October, we saw the king, and he told us that it was too cold to talk. We were surprised to find that Lobengula denied giving us leave to prospect, and said that we had only permission to hunt and shoot. Six Indunas sat to consider the matter, and while they were doing so, a man, constantly walking backward and forward, shouted out the praises of the king. "O Penoola, the King of kings, King of the Heavens, Father of fire. He

ascends the blue heavens. He sends his lightnings into the clouds, and makes the rain to descend. Ye mountains, woods, and grassy plains, hearken to the King of Heaven." An immense amount of disputing took place among the Indunas. Phillips was accused of having sent for his white brothers, and we sat until sundown listening to what seemed interminable talking. On the next day Fairbairn was asked why he called in the Wood syndicate. This he denied, but admitted having told Francis about a concession. On and on went the never-ending discussion—two of the principal Indunas communicating with the king, who sat some little distance off. Politeness does not form a remarkable feature in the debates, as an Induna thinks nothing of telling a white man to hold his tongue, or that he lies. The meeting was broken up without anything being done, and Fairbairn, who is keeper of the Great Seal and custodian of all Government documents, was ordered to produce his



LOBENGULA'S KRAAL AT UMVUCHA.

(1) *King sitting on waggon-box.* (2) *Meat Poles.* (3) *Buck Kraal where Medicines are made.* (4) *Royal Huts.* (5) *Induna Huts.*

Face p. 135.]

books on Monday morning. On Monday, the 24th October, at 9 a.m., the court again assembled, and Fairbairn produced his books, and then there was a great talk about ivory and money concerns. About midday the king said the sun was hot and we must adjourn. More delays took place, partly caused by the king being engaged in "rain-making." "Hope deferred maketh the heart sick." At last on Friday, the 28th October, there was a gleam of luck.

We called upon the king and found him sitting on his favourite seat—the waggon-box—and he promised to attend to our business. One of the regiments, three hundred strong, from Bimbeza, the royal town, was drawn up in front of the kraal being reviewed. These men looked well in full war paint, with capes and hoods of black ostrich plumes, armed with assegais, knob kerries, and coloured ox-hide shields.

At last we had a definite interview with the king, when six Indunas were present.

They said that Taylor and Boyle had brought letters from the Queen, but that we must be common men as we bore no such missive. We replied that this statement must be untrue, as her Majesty does not give letters to her subjects, but acts through her governors, and that we had duly brought a letter from his Excellency of Bechuanaland, which the king had in his possession. No answer nor reasoning could suffice. A negative reply to our request for a concession was given, and we were told that we might come again next year with the required letter from the Queen. We were terribly disgusted and disappointed after all our travels, labours, and expense. It should be mentioned that when we called on Messrs. Taylor and Boyle to explain what had taken place, they both denied having shown a letter from the Queen, and told us that these people only wanted an excuse to get rid of us and made up this story for the purpose.

When we told Lobengula of this it made no impression.

At last, as a sort of compromise, the king informed us that we might prospect the country on our way down, and if we thought well of it return at once and make some agreement. It was at last definitely agreed that we should look at the country between the Shashi and Macloutsie rivers, close to Tati. We were struck greatly by the sight of eighty Mashonas at the king's kraal paying a tribute of 300 Kafir picks and a quantity of tobacco manufactured by themselves. They were formed in a half circle, dancing while they sang the praises of the almighty Lobengula—hating him all the time in their hearts, and wretchedly having to spend the night without shelter under pouring rain.

"If you find gold between Shashi and Macloutsie rivers you can return, and I will do something for you," were the last words of the king, and away we went for the

promised land. It was now the hot rainy season, so amidst thunderstorms and downpours we rather uncomfortably travelled to the Shashi river, which we reached on the 9th of November, and we were at once able to prospect some old diggings. Mr. Wood now determined to return and get a concession from the king of mining and other rights in the country between the Shashi and Macloutsie rivers for the syndicate which he represented; but there was opposition, which was eventually overcome, and on Friday, 11th November, the party again appeared at Umbucha, had an interview with the king, met with a cordial reception, and got the concession, which is best explained by giving it verbatim, as follows:—

"Know all men by these presents that we Lobengula King of the Matabele Nation with the advice and consent of my Indunas this day granted to Joseph Garbett Wood and Edward Chapman of Grahamstown and William Curl Francis of Mangwato to their

heirs and assigns: viz., the sole right to search for, dig, extract and utilise gold and any metal that may be found upon any of the ground or rivers between the Rivers Shashi and Macloutsie from their source to where the rivers empty themselves into any other rivers; To erect mills for stamping purposes or any other form of mills and smelting works, and to reduce ores or minerals as may be required; The exclusive right to all water within the described area between the Rivers Shashi and Macloutsie; The right to any timber or wood required; The right of making and using roads; The right of grazing stock; The right of erecting such buildings as may be required for machinery and labourers. The said Joseph Garbett Wood, Edward Chapman, William Curl Francis their heirs and assigns on their part promising truly to pay or cause to be paid an annual rental of one hundred pounds sterling to me or my lawful representative, this rental to be due and

payable at the expiration of one year from the signing of this deed of cession or grant, but in case of the said parties not paying or causing to be paid the said one hundred pounds sterling then in that case three months from the due date if not then paid this grant or cession as mutually agreed shall cease to exist. Should the annual payments be truly and faithfully paid then, in that case, the said Joseph Garbett Wood, Edward Chapman and William Curl Francis their heirs and assigns shall remain in lawful possession for a term not to exceed ninety nine years terminating in the year of Our Lord 1986, with the right of renewal.

Given under my hand at the Royal Kraal, Umbucha, this seventeenth day of November 1887. LOBENGULA,

King of the Matabele.

In presence of his X mark.

G. A. PHILLIPS.

M. COHEN."

Great Seal of Kingdom attached.

"It is further understood that should the parties commence working the reefs before the expiration of one year then the annual payment shall be made on the day the work commences.

Present,

NOONJE RAZENGWANI.

Witness,

M. COHEN.

G. A. PHILLIPS.

JOHN WILLIAM FILE, Interpreter."

On Friday morning, 11th November, we finally bade the king farewell. A party of concession seekers wished us "good luck," and afterwards did their best to get a concession of our ground from the chief Khama, to whom it did not belong. They succeeded in their purpose, and this has led to protracted controversy.

On the 27th July, 1888, the following telegram was received:—From Imperial Secretary, Capetown, to Joseph Wood, care of Caldecott and Bell, Kimberley. "Have

seen your brother and he tells me you propose going to disputed territory between Shashi and Macloutsie. I desire therefore to caution you that no Europeans will be allowed to enter disputed territory until question has been settled."

Another telegram from John Wood, M.L.A. Cape Town, to Joseph Wood, Kimberley :—

"Governor told me last night that he had instructed Administrator Shippard to arrest imprison Wood, Chapman, Francis, or any white man attempting to enter territory in dispute between Khama and Lobengula until dispute was settled. Administrator has full power to arbitrate between the two chiefs, when settled Governor says justice will be done to all who secured concessions."

At this time, when Mr. Grobelaar, the Transvaal Consul, was travelling through the disputed country on return from a visit to Lobengula, he and his party were treacherously attacked by about one hundred and fifty of Khama's men, and although there

were only five Dutchmen, they made a brave stand, in the course of which Grobelaar was killed. This cowardly attack, of course, became the subject of inquiry, and Sir Sydney Shippard, Lieut.-Governor of Bechuanaland, was deputed to investigate and settle the matter. Of course there was no doubt in our minds that Lobengula was the real owner of the disputed territory, and the following letter was kindly carried by General Joubert, the Transvaal Representative, and placed in the hands of her Majesty's Lieut.-Governor, viz.:—

"Pretoria,
7th August, 1891.

To Sir Sydney Shippard,
Administrator, Shoshong.

Sir,—I have the honour to inform you that I arrived at this town last Monday week in company with Mr. Pauling and other English gentlemen representing a company in England for prospecting the concession given myself and syndicate last November

by the King of Matabeleland lying between the Rivers Macloutsie and Shashi. On my arrival here I received a wire from the Imperial Secretary warning me and all Europeans from proceeding to the disputed ground under the penalty of imprisonment. I need hardly say that the settlement of the boundary question is to myself and all concerned a matter of serious importance. Through the action of the High Commissioner I am prevented from being present at the Commission of Enquiry to tender evidence and watch proceedings, which I am anxious and prepared to do.

I have, &c.,

Jos. G. Wood."

To the above letter no reply was ever given.

The telegram sent to me by the Imperial Secretary stating that Khama and Lobengula had given the Administrator full power to arbitrate and decide all disputes turned out to be utterly delusive. It appeared, indeed,

from the whole circumstance that there was sympathy, and particularly for Khama, because he was under the British Protectorate, and that we could not obtain justice for our syndicate. Subsequently the Chartered Company appeared on the scene and their armed forces have been allowed to build Fort Tuli in this disputed country and generally to hunt and make use of the land, which we, the concessionnaires, are not allowed to enter.

We went to see the chief Khama at Shoshong, and he informed us that the country between the Macloutsie and Shashi rivers belonged to him, and that he would not allow us to work. Thereupon we communicated this reply to Lobengula and asked for his protection, sending one copy of this letter to the Rev. Mr. Moffat, who represented the British Government, and another to Khama. The supporters of this last-mentioned chief immediately reported that we were trying to get up a war. It was now desirable to revisit Buluwayo and

have an interview with Lobengula. Accordingly we proceeded by coach *viâ* Pretoria and Nylstroom. The old trek Boers, in conferring this name upon a river, evidently thought they had reached the veritable Nile, and considered themselves at no very great distance from Egypt and the scripture lands they had read so much of in their Bibles. Passing through the Waterberg and Zoutpansberg districts, we came across the spacious caves which have so often formed a retreat for the natives. On Saturday, 1st September, our waggons were overtaken by twelve armed Boers, under the command of Field Cornet Du Preez, who ordered a halt, then produced a document from the landrost of Petersburg authorising him to stop our waggons, and search for firearms, ammunition, and dutiable articles. These orders were duly carried out, and we were presented with a document certifying that everything was satisfactory, and then after giving them breakfast, we parted the best

of friends. On the 13th of September we arrived at the Crocodile or Limpopo river, and after some delay and difficulty were able to cross safely. We were now in Matabeleland, but were greatly chagrined to learn from a Dutchman we met that we were on the wrong road and would have to recross the Limpopo. Accordingly we were forced to retrace our steps. On we went until Friday, 5th October, when we were stopped at a native location and informed that we should not be allowed to proceed any further until the king's permission had been obtained. We visited the petty chief, who told us that he regretted to inform us that since the death of Grobelaar, orders had been given to stop all waggons. On the 8th of October, one of the king's Indunas arrived, and four Matabeles, with instructions from Lobengula to find out who we were and stop us. Thus were we blocked by our own Government, by Lobengula and by Khama. However, we sent a message to

the king, and on the 11th of October received a letter from Mr. G. A. Phillips, informing us that the king advised us to return, as the white people were using very bad words. They were a great trouble to him, particularly Moffat, who had nearly talked him into madness. We now were really prisoners, and it was with great difficulty that we were after days of delay allowed to proceed some distance further.

On the 26th October, Sir Sydney Shippard's waggons arrived with Major Gould Adams and an escort of Bechuanaland police. Major Adams called to say that Sir Sydney Shippard had a letter from the king for Mr. Joseph Wood, and stated that Matabeleland was in a very excited state, and that he would not advise us to go any further. Nothing more could be obtained in the way of concessions. He distinctly assured us that if we would go with him, any feeling that existed between Khama and the syndicate would not matter. Mr. Joseph Wood was

informed of this, and told that he could travel through the country as Sir Sydney Shippard's friend, and that he should not return to Lobengula's kraal, as by doing so the lives of every white person in Matabeleland would be jeopardised. As these representations came from an officer of rank in the Imperial service, they were attended to, and the advice given was taken, although, no doubt, consequences disastrous to the syndicate in a financial point of view were the sequence. One of the waggon drivers, who persisted in his intention of going on to the king's kraal, was made prisoner by the police under orders from Major Gould Adams. However, we were still in Matabeleland, and the Induna present promptly intervened and demanded the release of this man, stating that the road was open for everyone who wished to go to the king. Major Adams was checkmated and had to yield. We then proceeded on our journey back to civilisation under an escort of Bechuanaland police.

The heat was almost unbearable—the barometer standing at 110° in the shade, and our thirst was extraordinary.

It was a sorrowful thing for us to have to pass the Tati and cross over the territory between the Macloutsie and Shashi rivers conceded to our syndicate by Lobengula for mineral purposes, without being able to prospect, particularly as we were informed that the territory was rich in gold, no fewer than one hundred and three times out of one hundred and nine pannings having resulted in finds of the precious metal. Others seemingly had entered into our labours and were actually prospecting upon our ground. When we came to the Macloutsie river we found some of Johnson's party there under canvas, and Burnet was allowed to shoot two koodoos and one roebuck in spite of the proclamation. Have we not reason to say that there is one law for the Chartered Company and another for those who do not belong to it?

We met Bishop Knight Bruce and heard from him a most distressing account of the butchery by Matabele Impis of unfortunate Mashonas. At some places desolation reigned—huts and lands but lately occupied were destroyed, and where an industrious population had resided not one living creature was to be seen. He himself had a narrow escape, and was obliged for days to remain hidden from evil-disposed natives. As we proceeded along there could be no doubt that we were guarded, and when an explanation of this was asked we were informed that this was for our own good, to protect us from any possible attack on the part of Khama's people. The Administrator (Sir Sydney Shippard) stated that instructions had been given to him by the High Commissioner (Sir Hercules Robinson) for the waggons to proceed to Mafeking. To no purpose was it pointed out that great loss of time and considerable expense would be entailed. The truth is, we had been

virtually trapped and carried off to Bechuanaland. On 3rd November Mr. Rudd, formerly member of the House of Assembly in the Cape Colony, arrived from the king's kraal. He reported that much of the excitement in Matabeleland had subsided. He declared himself very glad to see us, and there is no doubt that this was literally true, as he beheld the representatives of our syndicate with clipped wings escorted by policemen under the order of the great friend of Messrs. C. J. Rhodes, Rudd, and others—Sir Hercules Robinson. They had now undisturbed opportunities for obtaining the concession of mineral rights in Mashonaland.

One of our fellow-travellers (Burnet) informed us that there is more game between the Shashi and Macloutsie rivers than can be seen in Mashonaland. This morning we came across three lions, as well as koodoos, gemsboks, elands, and sable antelopes. At this part of our journey Mr.

Joseph Wood became seriously ill, and would have died but for the medicine and medical comforts supplied to him by Mr. Dunn, who was travelling through the country with the waggons. This gentleman told us that Bishop Knight Bruce had travelled into the interior for some distance accompanied by Mrs. Bruce, and she was sitting on the second waggon when one of the oxen became unmanageable. The bishop suggested that two of his men should replace the recalcitrant ox, but his plan did not answer, and then the church dignitary determined himself to take the place of the animal, took the end of the yoke, and told the boy to drive on. It need scarcely be said that there soon was an end of this arrangement. Mr. Dunn was an experienced traveller and knew what was necessary for comfort and health. His tinned vegetables, cork mattress, india-rubber bath, were all means of preserving not only comfort but health.

We met the Hon. Mr. Wollop and Mr. Haggard on their way to Matabeleland, and the latter, who had heard of Mr. Joseph Wood, advised him to write an account of his travels, and it is a subject of regret that this advice was not sooner attended to.

On Friday, 16th November, Major Gould Adams called on us to attend before the Administrator. Accordingly, we accompanied him to the place of meeting in a room adjoining Mussum's store at Mangwato. There were present Sir Sydney Shippard, the chief Khama and his son, Mr. Joseph Wood, Mr. Pauling, the two Mr. Cocks, the Protestant Bishop of Bloemfontein, the Rev. Mr. Hepburn, Mr. Lloyd, and a police interpreter. We were asked to be seated, and then the Administrator said in a solemn manner that it was his most painful duty to speak in a severe manner to Mr. Joseph Wood in consequence of his conduct in trying to create a war between the Chief Khama and King Lobengula. That Mr. Wood had proceeded to

Pretoria and tried there to get the Boers to enforce their supposed treaty with the old King Moselekatzi, and also tried to persuade them to make a raid on Khama's country. Mr. Wood emphatically denied these charges, and expressed his surprise that such trumped-up accusations should have been sprung upon him. He adverted to the fact that he had been invited to come out of Matabeleland merely because of the critical position of that country. He also referred to his loyalty having been demonstrated by his services to his Queen and country in connection with Kafir wars, Sir Charles Warren's expedition, (for which he had enlisted three hundred picked men, and other services), for which he had received the thanks of the general in command, and of the Prime Minister of the Cape Colony. Mr. Wood incidently reminded the Administrator of the complimentary dinner given by the inhabitants of Mafeking, when he had publicly said he took the Union Jack with him to Matabeleland and

hoped to be able to induce Lobengula to come under the protection of the British Government. On this occasion Sir Sydney Shippard had thanked him for his speech. He had never wavered in his loyalty, the charges were completely false, and it was exceedingly hard that these alleged crimes should be made the pretext for removing him out of the way of the Chartered Company and putting obstacles in the way of the syndicate of which he was a member. After a good deal of conversation the Administrator said that he had drawn up a document which he wanted Mr. Wood to sign, binding himself and his syndicate not to put foot on their concession, without first obtaining the sanction of the High Commissioner, under a penalty of two thousand pounds. Mr. Joseph Wood declined because he was innocent, and that he had no power to bind any member of his syndicate. After the meeting, Major Gould Adams went to Mr. Wood, and in a friendly manner advised him to sign this document.

Upon receiving a negative, he then said it would be necessary to convey him to Mafeking. Accordingly this was determined on, and before setting out the Chief Khama shook hands with Mr. Wood and bade farewell to him in a friendly style. Mr. Pauling, with the other Englishmen, was allowed to go to Pretoria.

The country through which we travelled was exceedingly dry and we felt the want of water very much. Wherever a vlei is to be seen with the least quantity of muddy water, there Namaqua partridges gather together in hundreds, and so thirsty are they, that in spite of shots fired at them they still persist in trying to obtain some moisture for their parched throats. We did not get a thoroughly good wash until we arrived at the river Natwani. On Monday, 26th November, we passed into Lynchwi's country out of Khama's. These people were originally under Secheli, but having grown rich and strong, seized this part of the country,

and do not pay tribute as was originally agreed. A message was sent by mounted police to the country for leave to pass through, and on Thursday, 29th November, we passed through Lynchwi's town and found it far cleaner and quite superior to that of Khama's. When passing Secheli's, we saw the Chief and noticed a great change since our last visit, twelve months ago. He had become much more feeble. The marriage between him and the widow of Machin, Chief of the Mangwatos, was distasteful to these people. As illustrative of the atrocious practices constantly carried on in the name of religion and native custom, we were told that among the Mangwatos circumcision is carried out in such a cruel manner that a number of boys died under it. They are beaten in an inhuman manner, and on a recent occasion an illness broke out among three hundred of them and fifty died. On this occasion the witch doctors recommended that one of the boys should be sacrificed.

This was done, and then soup was made of one of his hands and feet which had to be partaken of by the others. The cruel superstitions and degrading rites practised with reference to the girls can only be alluded to. All this takes place openly under a British Protectorate, and close to the seat of the Administrator of British Bechuanaland. Surely the High Commissioner is acquainted with these atrocities. Does he do anything to put a stop to them?

CHAPTER VIII.

It was very galling for us to know that, while our syndicate was entirely debarred from entering upon our concession between the Macloutsie and Shashi rivers, Major Gould Adams had actually purchased eighteen guns with ammunition for the purpose of arming Johnson's party, which had obtained a concession of the same country from Khama. Certainly these men should have been made to obey the proclamation as well as we. On Tuesday, 4th December, we were informed that Rudd, Rhodes, and others, had succeeded in obtaining a concession of all Mashonaland from Lobengula, and that they were backed up by a powerful syndicate with twenty millions sterling of capital. We were also told that our American friend Moore had been squared.

On Sunday, 9th December, we arrived at Mafeking and were put on parole, and on the 10th Major Gould Adams called and accompanied us to the Court House, where we found Mr. Newton, the acting Administrator, seated in the magisterial chair, although Sir Sydney Shippard himself was present. We had seats provided for us opposite the bench, but were desired to stand at attention when the indictments were read. Having pleaded "Not Guilty," we were then asked to sign a document or bail bond, when Sir Sydney remarked that Mr. Wood had not objected to sign for himself at Mangwato, but only for his syndicate, and that he had left out the objectionable part. Our legal adviser said that we had better sign, and added, "If you wish to appeal against anything done here you have to deposit five hundred pounds, then you must get the consent of the High Commissioner. If you are successful your appeal must go to England." Mr. Wood had written to his

syndicate, but had received no reply, and asked for a copy of all documents and the proceedings of the Court. It was admitted that, owing to Sir Sydney Shippard's offer of protection, Mr. Wood had consented to accompany him. Mr. J. W. Cock, in stating that he would sign the recognisance, desired it to be well understood that neither he nor Mr. T. Cock were connected with Mr. Wood's syndicate, and that they were perfectly innocent of the charges brought against them. Their reason for travelling with that gentleman was because they had understood that he was the only Englishman who had any influence with Lobengula. The following is a copy of the bail bond and a summary of the charges made against us :—

"At Shoshong this 17th day of November, 1888, before Sir Sydney Shippard, K.C.M.G., Deputy Commissioner, appeared Mr. Joseph Garbett Wood, of Grahamstown, in the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope, and acknowledged himself to be indebted to our

Sovereign Lady the Queen in the sum of two thousand pounds sterling: The condition of this recognisance is that if the said Joseph Garbett Wood shall at all times abstain from entering either personally or by his partners, representatives, or servants, the territory situated between the Rivers Macloutsie, Limpopo, Tuli, and Shashi, without the leave of Her Majesty's High Commissioner first had been obtained, and shall further abstain from saying, writing, or doing anything calculated to stir up strife between the Chiefs Khama and Lobengula and between the Governments of the South African Republic or any person residing in Transvaal territory and either of the said chiefs, then this recognisance shall be null and void, and otherwise shall remain in full force and effect."

It may be stated here that subsequently this recognisance was cancelled. The following is the affidavit of Major Gould Adams:—

"I, Hamilton Gould Adams, Major com-

manding the Bechuanaland Border Police, make oath and say that at John Lee's farm, on the river Mangwe in Matabeleland, on Friday, 26th October, 1888, I met Joseph Garbett Wood, John William Cock, and Thomas Cock, with others, travelling with ox waggons in the direction of the territory between Shashi and Macloutsie rivers, and that I received instructions from the Deputy Commissioner, Sir Sydney Shippard, K.C.M.G., acting under a warrant from Lobengula, to take and convey the said Joseph Garbett Wood, John William Cock, Thomas Cock, and others as far as the Shashi river, and that subsequently on the Macloutsie river the said J. G. Wood, J. W. Cock, T. Cock, appeared desirous of remaining in the territory between the Shashi and Macloutsie, presumably for the purpose of prospecting the gold there, under an alleged concession from the Chief Lobengula, though the said J. G. Wood, J. W. Cock and T. Cock, well knew that the immediate consequence of any

such attempt as prospecting for gold in the said territory would be to stir up strife and bring about hostilities between the said Chief Lobengula and the chief of the Bangwati, who also claims the said territory between Macloutsie and Shashi rivers, and is determined to maintain his right by force of arms. And I further make oath and say, that at Shoshong, on Saturday, 17th November, 1888, the said Deputy Commissioner, in the presence of and with the concurrence of the said Chief Khama, offered to allow to the said J. G. Wood, T. W. Cock, and T. Cock and others, the option of proceeding freely and without let or hindrance to the Transvaal Republic, by the direct road across Manica, provided they executed the recognisance, copy of which is annexed, marked A, and that the said J. G. Wood pointedly refused to execute the said recognisance, whereupon the said Deputy Commissioner informed the said J. G. Wood, J. W. Cock, and T. Cock, that they must pro-

ceed under police escort to Mafeking, as it was the express wish of the said Chief Khama that the case should be referred to his Excellency the High Commissioner, and lastly, I say that such refusal on the part of the said J. G. Wood to execute the recognisance affords in my opinion reasonable grounds for suspicion that the said J. G. Wood, J. W. Cock, and T. Cock intend hereafter to do acts, and to endeavour to induce, or assist others to do acts, calculated to stir up strife between the said Chiefs Lobengula and Khama.

"H. Gould Adams, Major.

"Sworn before me at Mafeking,

"9th December, 1880.

"F. J. Newton,

"Acting Administrator."

Mr. Joseph Wood has great reason for complaint. Sir Sydney Shippard never informed him that he was in possession of a warrant from Lobengula, and instead of producing it, assumed to be his friend and

protector. The authorities should have enquired further into the charge of treasonable action with the Transvaal Republic. The following letter from Major Edwards is significant, and so explanatory, that it is desirable to insert it in full.

"December 26th, 1890.

"To Joseph G. Wood, Esq., Grahamston.

"Dear Mr. Wood,—With reference to our conversation yesterday respecting Matabeleland, when you visited Lobengula in the year 1887, I was also present and told you that the king was favourably impressed with you, and that had you visited the king alone, you would have succeeded very much better in anything you wanted to do. The concession you obtained from Lobengula between the Rivers Shashi and Macloutsie was ceded to you in a document which was most ably drawn up and was given to you previous to that granted to Rudd by some months. From my knowledge of the country and that of others competent to give a reli-

able opinion, there can be no doubt that the Matabele have a right up to the Macloutsie by conquest. That right has never been disturbed until very recently. I am also aware that stakes have been planted between the two rivers by the Matabeles—thus indicating the native right of holding possession. This year stakes were put along the Macloutsie river. I have heard from you that Khama informed Sir Sydney Shippard that the country between Macloutsie and Shashi had been occupied by his tribe for cattle posts, and that kraals had been made for years between the rivers aforesaid. To my knowledge nothing of the kind has been done until quite recently. Any encroachment of that kind would at once have caused war between the tribes. I was in Matabeleland when Sir Sydney Shippard visited Lobengula; Mr. Rudd was also there, trying to get a concession from the king, and I am also aware that through the action of her Majesty's representative an order was ob-

tained for your removal from Matabeleland, and through this action you were prevented from seeing the king and from negociating with him for a concession. From what I know of the king, had you proceeded to his kraal, I have no doubt that he would have received you in a friendly manner, and that you would have had the same chance of getting a concession in Matabeleland as any one else. I am, &c., S. H. EDWARDS."

From this letter, written by the most popular and influential man in Matabeleland, the unbiassed will be able to form a correct opinion. Mr. Joseph Wood could not but come to the conclusion that the Imperial officials were not impartial, and favoured the Rhodes-Rudd concessionnaries. The chairman of the Wood, Chapman, and Francis Syndicate wrote to Lord Knutsford, Secretary of State for the Colonies, on the 15th of April, 1889, pointing out the unfair treatment they had received from the British Bechuanaland authorities, which elicited the

following reply, addressed to Mr. Joseph Wood.

"Sir,—I am directed by His Excellency the Acting High Commissioner, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th February, asking that full and ample amends be made to you for your alleged indignity and illegal detention in Bechuanaland. Your letter was forwarded for the consideration of the Secretary of State, who has authorised His Excellency to reply that no discourtesy was offered or intended towards you, and that the proceedings taken in your case appear to have been limited to obtaining such securities as seemed necessary for maintaining the peace of the country. I am, &c., Graham Bower, Imperial Secretary."

This cold-blooded effusion ended an episode in which Mr. Wood had been prevented competing for a most valuable concession by the action of Imperial officials. He had been made a prisoner, and the fact proclaimed over South Africa. The Char-

tered Company, however, had every possible facility given to it, and on the very ground of the Wood, Chapman, and Francis concession, which the concessionnaires dare not enter, were allowed to build a fort. Mr. Wood now distinctly reiterates that the charges against him of trying to foment war between chiefs and meeting the authorities of the Transvaal Republic to claim a supposed protectorate, are false and malicious charges, which never have been proved, or can be proved. The Imperial official protector of the peace actually signed permits authorising the officers of the Rhodes concession to remove 1,000 Martini rifles with an immense quantity of ball cartridges into Lobengula's country—a friendly state, and when asked why this was done, the answer, given in the Parliament of the Cape Colony, was that if these munitions of war had not been supplied by us, the business would have fallen into the hands of the Transvaal Republic.

And now Mr. Joseph Wood concludes his narrative of the travels, toils, successes, and disappointments connected with his adventures in South Africa as a member of the Wood, Francis, and Chapman Syndicate. It is a plain, unvarnished narrative. Nothing has been exaggerated or set down for the sake of effect. Actual facts are stated, and it is trusted that this small work may form a useful contribution to the knowledge of Matabeleland, as well as contribute to history some fact of consequence concerning the treatment that concessionnaires have to expect when they come into contact with such a very favoured association as that of the British African Chartered Company.

In the Appendix a few hints are given for travellers, founded on practical experience (A). It is also thought well to furnish (Appendix B) some letters connected with events referred to in the preceding pages extracted from the Bechuanaland Blue Book (1888) laid before the Imperial Parliament.

APPENDIX A.

A FEW HINTS FOR TRAVELLERS.

In a strange country it is too risky to leave your cattle out at night. The oxen ought to be tied to the yokes. When travelling in the early morning always outspan before sunrise. If the weather be cool trek after breakfast, and then after two hours' travelling rest. In warm weather halt all day and travel at night. By judicious management cattle on a long journey can be kept in good condition for many months. Of course, oxen require sleep like all other animals, and when travelling at night is alluded to it is only meant that three hours' trek is taken. Then there should be four hours' sleep before going on again.

As far as possible trekking in the rain should be avoided, as the hump of the ox, which is always in contact with the yoke, gets swollen and raw. Travellers should take care always to have a supply of salt, which should be placed upon the ground once a week in small quantities, and in different places, so that each ox can get a supply. This very much conduces to keeping the cattle in condition.

Travellers in Matabeleland and Mashonaland should always be provided with an efficient guide. In many

cases we suffered very severely by a neglect in this respect, and the most serious dangers and losses can be easily incurred in this manner.

Beware of travelling in the wet season. One hears of the great hardships the early hunters had to endure from doing so. Waggons had to be taken to pieces and their supplies carried by natives. We, who travelled in the winter months commencing in April, had great difficulties in some places, but we saw how enormously these would have been aggravated if it were the wet season.

Many a man and woman in South Africa has reason to thank Croft's Tincture for saving their lives from snake-bite, and it is most desirable for the traveller in Africa to carry it. It is believed that hundreds of people are killed every year in Africa by bites of snakes and venomous animals, and there is no doubt constant danger in summer to the traveller exists. The tincture and other medicines are still manufactured by one of the daughters of Mr. Croft in Grahamstown. Why this certain cure is not used in India surprises every one who is acquainted with its efficacy.

"Melk Zickte" is a common disease among cattle, well known to colonists. A complete remedy is known to the natives, who use for the purpose certain herbs and the ashes of the mimosa. This is one of many medicines which are extremely valuable, and are quite unknown to the civilised world.

In travelling accidents to tents of waggons are very frequent, and it is difficult to prevent them. We experienced the great disadvantage of not having spare articles to fit up when breakages took place. Spare bows and lathing are very desirable.

Horse-sickness is a dreadful scourge in the interior, and there is really no cure for the disease. Horses that recover are called "salted," and are very valuable. Travellers are almost certain to lose horses that are not of this description.

Travellers in purchasing a waggon should be careful that the maker is a good man to deal with, the wood well seasoned, otherwise the tires will soon be loose. This may occur away from any blacksmith. The Grahamstown waggon makers can be relied upon. More waggons are built in this town than any other part of the colony. For up-country trade some spare patent links should be secured in case of the trek chain breaking. The driver can repair the break without the assistance of a smith. For sleeping purposes have a cartel or bed made, constructed of wood and hoop-iron, width of the waggon, to be fixed on the sides; this is a great comfort. Some few travellers have had a small flat galvanised iron tank fitted under the bed plank. This is a great convenience where water is scarce and filthy, and can always be depended upon. Each waggon should be provided with two water vitgies, two canvas water bags. A green hide, fitted under the waggon, is a great convenience for carrying pots and pans, axes, and occasionally fuel.

The traveller would find a canvas awning, the length of the waggon, fitted from the side of the waggon on to light uprights, a very great convenience from sun and rain, and shelter for servants on wet nights.

Waggon should be lined with green baize for warmth and coolness. Canvas bags are necessary, to be fitted inside the waggon. Folding chairs with canvas backs are most comfortable, and a small portable table. Two

lanterns required. The traveller must carry his own supplies, cannot depend upon purchasing on the road. Rusks should be taken for early coffee, and when bread is badly baked. Tinned milk, vegetables, oatmeal, pearl barley, hams, bacon, cheese must be secured, also spirituous liquors. Any surplus supplies can always be disposed of at a profit. Beads and calico required for bartering purposes in Matabeleland and Mashonaland. Money of no use. Be careful to enquire what beads are in fashion before purchasing, otherwise they will not secure your purpose. Natives are very fanciful as to the colour and size of the bead. Empty metal cartridge cases are much enquired for in bartering.

One of the most comfortable things to secure is a good skin kaross. Much more warmth in one of them than in four blankets. Sportsmen should secure a single-barrel breech-loading rifle for large game, the butt of the stock gutta-percha to prevent kicking; for bird shooting double-barrel, smooth bore, twelve cartridge.

The sportsman will find a very good dish, baking eland's or any antelope's head in a hole dug for that purpose, well heated; then place the head in the hole, covered with earth, fire made on the top; leave all night, will be well cooked next morning. Same with the udder. Partridges, guinea-fowl, or pheasants may be cooked just as they are shot; the outside will peel off nice and clean, the same with the inside, but steak or mutton toasted on a forked stick is very sweet, and can be cooked to satisfy any appetite. The traveller does not require much medicine if careful; one Holloway's Pill, and only one occasionally, is all he requires. For rheumatism, equal parts of castor oil and American Pain-killer, mixed, used for rubbing; pain in the back, lumbago, or

sprain, have painted with iodine three or four times a day; the patient will find out when he has had enough painting. For fever use Warburg's Fever Tincture; for troublesome sores use common blue-stone and Friar's Balsam. Don't encamp for any time near a river. Take advantage of having a good bath whenever you get a chance, always remembering that "cleanliness is next to godliness." Walking exercise good for most constitutions. Be careful in selecting your travelling companions, that they are clean, not over-quarrelsome, remembering your waggon is your home—no getting away to the next room, must eat and sleep together. Use a gargle of common salt for sore throat, weak salt-and-water wash for sore eyes.

When using mealies for your horses have them put into a pot or bucket with water, place on the fire only until the water boils, then cool them; horses digest them much better in this way. Wherever grass is to be got, send your servant to cut a good bundle, place before your horse at night; this will greatly assist in keeping up his condition. Sore back, use a little lime in powder after each occasion he is used. Nose-bags and knee halter straps must not be forgotten, and horse-cloth.

DISTANCES

From Kimberley to—	
Shoshong Mangwato	400 miles.
Tati Goldfields	167 ,,
Buluwayo	119 ,,
Hartley's drift on the Umfuli river	176 ,,
Total distance from Kimberley to centre of Goldfields	about 965 ,,
From Port Elizabeth to—	
Khama's Town, Mangwato, *viâ* Hope Town	900 miles.
Khama's New Town, Palachwe	70 .,

DISTANCES—*continued.*

From Palachwe to—	
Tati Goldfields	62 miles.
Buluwayo...	80 ,,
From Lee House, Mangwi, to—	
Hartley Hill	269 ,,
Buluwayo...	60 ,,
Ganyani River to—	
Hartley Hill	37 ,,

ALTITUDE.

	ABOVE SEA LEVEL.
Shoshong, Khama's Town	3600 feet.
Mahalapsi River	3360 ,,
Lowani River	3400 ,,
Lotsani River	2900 ,,
Vley Semli	2000 ,,
Goque River, Lakukani	2650 ,,
Semli River	2570 ,,
* Makleytsi River	2500 ,,
* Mpaque or Shashi River	3170 ,,
Inkwiza River	3311 ,,
Mangwe, Lee House	3700 ,,
Simoque River	3750 ,,
Mayami River	3900 ,,
Shashani River	3810 ,,
Tigusi	4400 ,,
Bembezi, Umhlanguni Vley	3792 ,,
Isolonqui River	
Fochani River	
Lhinga River	
Goque River	
Gwailsi River	
Sewhuewhen River	
Bembezi River	
Sepaqui River	3420 ,,
Umquati River	
Vley	
Umsweswi River	

ALTITUDE—*continued.*

	ABOVE SEA LEVEL.	
Gwiwi River		feet.
Landoz River		
Umfuli River		
Seimbi River		
Soraway River		
Ganyani River	3953	,,
Omzumim River		
Gwebi River		
Amazoe River		
Sopinga River..		
Fentocoti River		

APPENDIX B.

CORRESPONDENCE

respecting transactions in the country conceded to the Wood, Chapman, and Francis Syndicate between the Macloutsi and Shashi rivers—from the Bechuanaland Blue Book, 1888—presented to both Houses of the Imperial Parliament.

No. 28.

SIR HERCULES ROBINSON TO LORD KNUTSFORD.

(Received July 24, 1888.)

Telegraphic.

23rd July.—Learn that Grobelaar came into collision with Khama's people while passing through their country. Grobelaar and several persons of his party have been wounded. Accounts from both sides are conflicting. Have ordered inquiry into circumstances on the spot, and informed President of South African Republic that as Lo Bengula denies signing any treaty or asking for Consul, I cannot recognise Grobelaar in that capacity unless he can produce authenticated treaty prior to our sanctioning such an appointment.

No. 29.

SIR HERCULES ROBINSON TO LORD KNUTSFORD.

(Received July 26, 1888.)

Telegraphic.

26th July, 1888—.Collision between Grobelaar's party and Khama's natives having occurred near Makloutse, in Protectorate, am sending Deputy Commissioner for Protectorate Shippard to hold inquiry. He leaves to-morrow, and may be away for two months. At request of Shippard am sending Private Secretary Newton to act as Administrator whilst absent. Have directed Moffatt, who is on the road to Matabeleland, to push on as fast as possible, as it is desirable that Lo Bengula should have good advice.

No. 30.

SIR HERCULES ROBINSON TO LORD KNUTSFORD.

(Received July 31, 1888.)

Government House, Cape Town,
July 11, 1888.

My Lord,—I have the honour to enclose for your Lordship's information a copy of a telegraphic correspondence which I have had with the Administrator of British Bechuanaland and the British Agent at Pretoria respecting a report which had reached the Chief Khama to the effect that Mr. Grobelaar was preparing to cross

the River Limpopo with 33 men, and that Messrs. Francis and Chapman had set out to cross with him.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) Hercules Robinson,
High Commissioner.

The Right Hon. Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.,
&c., &c., &c., Colonial Office.

Enclosure 1 in No. 30.

Telegram.

From Administrator, Vryburg, to His Excellency the Governor, Cape Town.

7th July.—Letter from Mr. Moffatt, dated 2nd instant, reporting his arrival at Kanya on Saturday, 30th ultimo, and forwarding copy of following letter from Chief Khama. Begins:—

Shoshong, June 25, 1888.

My Friend,—Mr. Tom Fry has just returned from the river with this news. Great numbers of Boers are massing on the River Limpopo. Grobelaar is putting a pont on the river to cross between Makloutse and Shashi. He has 30 men with him to enable him to cross the river and safely conduct him across the Shashi. If this is true news—and Mr. Tom Fry says he has heard it from so many Boers, and he knows Francis and Chapman have gone to catch Grobelaar and cross with him—then I fear it is the beginning of trouble, and therefore I make haste to let you know what I have heard. I shall send off

special messengers to Lo Bengula, who will go in by the Makalaka country and not go near the white men at Tati. I am your friend,

(Signed) KHAMA,
Chief of the Bamangwato

To. Rev. J. S. Moffatt, Assistant Commissioner.

Certified a true copy, .

(Signed) J. S. MOFFATT. Ends.

Mr. Moffatt adds:—"I am writing to the Chief Khama advising him to act as much as possible in concert with Lo Bengula in case they should see their way to disallow the establishment of one end of a pont on ground which certainly belongs to one or other of them and not to the Transvaal."

Enclosure 2 in No. 30.

Telegram.

From High COMMISSIONER to BRITISH AGENT, Pretoria.

9th.—The Chief Khama, in a letter dated 25th June, reports that Mr. Grobelaar is preparing to cross the River Limpopo with 30 men, and that Boers are massing on the river. I shall be glad if you will inform the Government of the South African Republic of this report, and add that as these rumours tend to create alarm amongst the native tribes in the Protectorate I shall be obliged if his Honour the State President will inform me as to the facts of the case.

Enclosure 3 in No. 30.

Telegram.

From ADMINISTRATOR, Vryburg, to HIGH COMMISSIONER, Cape Town.

9th July.—Assistant Commissioner, when in Mafeking,

advised arrest of Chapman and Francis, if possible. Do you approve, and if so, shall I send officer and 20 men to Makloutse River with a warrant under Proclamation 10 B. B.?

Enclosure 4 in No. 30.

Telegram.

From High Commissioner to His Honour the Administrator, Vryburg.

9th.—Yours of to-day. I do not think a warrant could be legally granted under Proclamation No. 10 for the apprehension of persons not within the territory of British Bechuanaland, and if it were legal I doubt the expediency of taking so strong a step upon the imperfect information which we at present possess. I think it will be sufficient, therefore, if you instruct Mr. Moffat to push on and ascertain the facts as soon as possible.

Enclosure 5 in No. 30.

Telegram.

From British Agent, Pretoria, to High Commissioner, Cape Town.

10th July.—Your Excellency's of 9th instant. The Government reply that they are not aware of any massing of Boers. Consul-General Grobelaar, bound for Matabeleland, has crossed on pont alone. Nothing further known.

No. 31.

LORD KNUTSFORD TO SIR HERCULES ROBINSON.

Telegraphic.

August 2, 1888.—Referring to your telegram of 23rd

July* communication made to President of South African Republic approved.

No. 32.

SIR HERCULES ROBINSON TO LORD KNUTSFORD.

(Received August 8, 1888.)

Government House, Cape Town, July 18, 1888.

My Lord,—With reference to my Despatch of the 11th instant,† I have the honour to enclose, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a telegram which I have received from the Administrator of British Bechuanaland, reporting that he had instructed Mr. Moffat, Assistant Commissioner in the Bechuanaland Protectorate, to push on to Gubuluwayo as soon as possible.

I have, &c.

(Signed) Hercules Robinson,
Governor and High Commissioner.

The Right Hon. Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 32.

Telegram.

From Administrator, Vryburg, to His Excellency the High Commissioner, Cape Town.

12th July.—I have communicated to Mr. Moffat your instructions that he should push on as soon as possible to Gubuluwayo, and in order to prevent delay on account of negotiations pending with Gaseitsive,

* No. 28. † No. 30.

Ikaning, Lenchwe, and Sechele, Colonel Carrington is, at my request, sending my letter to Mr. Moffat, at Kanya, by the hands of Captain Bates, who will take Mr. Moffat's instructions as to the terms on which these negotiations must be carried out. Arrangements will be made for sending after Mr. Moffat any articles which have not yet arrived and may be required at Gubuluwayo.

No. 33.

SIR HERCULES ROBINSON (SOUTH AFRICA) TO LORD KNUTSFORD.

(Received August 15, 1888.)

Government House, Cape Town,
July 25, 1888.

My Lord,—I have the honour to enclose, for your Lordship's information, copies of telegraphic correspondence which has taken place respecting a collision which occurred between Transvaal burghers and some of Khama's natives at a place stated to be within the Bechuanaland Protectorate.

I have, &c.

(Signed) Hercules Robinson,
Governor and High Commissioner.

The Right Hon. Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 1 in No. 33.

Telegram.

From Administrator to His Excellency the Governor,
Capetown.

21st July.—Following telegram just received from

Assistant Commissioner:—Begins: July 17th, Lenchwe's. Letters from Khama to 14th. Boers have put pont on Limpopo this side Makloutse, therefore in Protectorate. Party of Boers under Grobler met party of Khama's men this side of Makloutse, took away guns from some, and thrashed them. Stronger party of Khama's men came up, tried to take guns back. Boers fired, shooting seven Bamangwatos, who then returned fire, wounding Grobler badly, and shooting one other Boer. Another Boer, thrown from horse, broke his arm, and a fourth killed with axe in struggle with one of Khama's men. Four others rode away. Messengers left scene of action at once, bringing this news. Khama sending force to prevent pont being used. Letters by post. Ends.

Enclosure 2 in No. 33.

Telegram.

(Translation.)

From State President, Pretoria, to His Excellency the High Commissioner, Capetown.

(21st.)—To my sorrow I must inform your Excellency that this morning I received intelligence by a vogge-turgo (*sic*), namely, a Kafir messenger, that Grobler, the Consul of this Republic in Matabeleland, with his escort consisting of four men, was on the 8th of July last, whilst journeying from Lo Bengula to this Republic between the rivers Shashi and Makloutse, and therefore beyond the disputed ground, treacherously attacked by about 150 Kafirs of Khama, under the leadership of Mokoutshani and of Khama's sons. Grobler himself and three of his followers were wounded.

Enclosure 3 in No. 33.

Telegram.

From High Commissioner to His Honour the State President, Pretoria.

22nd July.—Your Honour's telegram of 21st. Whilst lamenting the unfortunate occurrence which has taken place, it is my duty to inform you that Khama's account, received by me through the Assistant Commissioner in the Protectorate, does not agree with that received by your Honour, and represents Mr. Grobler's party as the aggressors. Mr. Moffat telegraphs as follows:—Begins: "Letters from Khama to 14th. Boers have put "pont on Limpopo this side Makloutse, therefore in "Protectorate. Party of Boers under Grobler met party "of Khama's men this side Makloutse, took away guns "from some, and thrashed them. Stronger party of "Khama's men came up, tried to take guns back. Boers "fired, shooting seven Bamangwatos, who then returned "fire, wounding Grobler badly, and shooting one other "Boer. Another Boer thrown from horse, broke his arm, "and a fourth killed with axe in struggle with one of "Khama's men. Four others rode away. Messengers left "scene of action at once, bringing this news. Khama "sending force to prevent pont being used." Ends. An officer will be instructed to proceed to the spot immediately, and to institute a full inquiry into the facts. Should his inquiry prove that Khama's people are to blame, he will be directed to bring them to justice. In the meantime I may observe that I am informed Lo Bengula denies that he has signed any treaty with or made any request to the South African Republic for a

Consul, and until I am favoured by your Honour with a perusal of the treaty and request referred to in your proclamation I am unable to form any opinion as to the validity of Mr. Grobler's appointment, which, unless sanctioned by prior treaty, would be in contravention of the treaty with Her Majesty's Government recently communicated officially to your Honour, in which Lo Bengula engages not to enter into correspondence with any foreign Power without the consent of Her Majesty's Government.

Enclosure 4 in No. 33.

Telegram.

From GOVERNOR to ADMINISTRATOR, Vryburg.

23rd July.—Yours 21st. President South African Republic sends me his version of collision as follows:—Grobler, Consul of South African Republic in Matabeleland, with escort of four men was, on 8th July, whilst journeying from Lo Bengula to South African Republic, between rivers Shashi and Makloutse, and therefore beyond the disputed ground, treacherously attacked by about 150 Kafirs of Khama's under the leadership of Mokoutani and of Khama's sons. Grobler himself and three of his followers were wounded. I have, in reply, sent him Khama's version, and said I would send an officer to the spot immediately to inquire into the facts and if investigation should prove Khama's people to blame, they would be punished. I added that Lo Bengula denied signing any treaty or making any request for a Consul, and that until I was favoured with a perusal of some treaty prior to ours, sanctioning appoint-

ment of a Consul, I could not recognise the validity of Grobler's appointment in that capacity, it being in contravention of our treaty.

Please give me your views as to best person to inquire into facts on spot. Moffat would be well competent to do so, but perhaps it would be well for him to push on to Gubuluwayo as fast as practicable, so as to prevent Lo Bengula being misled by interested persons as to the facts connected with the collision.

Enclosure 5 in No. 33.

Telegram.

From Secretary to British Agent to Imperial Secretary, Capetown.

July 23rd.—Kaffir arrived in Pretoria on Saturday bearing letter from Englishman stating that Grobler on his return from Lo Bengula, accompanied by five Boers and six Matebeles, was attacked in Khama's country by 150 men; during retreat to his waggons Grobler and three Boers were wounded. Grobler disabled six natives. After severe fight natives were repulsed. Grobler sent for aid from Boer settlement on Crocodile; was relieved by 50 men.

Enclosure 6 in No. 33.

Telegram.

(Translation.)

From State President to High Commissioner, Capetown.

23rd July.—Your Excellency's telegram of the 22nd instant. It does not astonish me that Khama's account

does not agree with the one received by us, as he will naturally put forward the case to his advantage. As regards the inquiry I would propose to your Excellency that it should take place by delegates from both sides. As place of assembling I would propose the Limpopo, at the place where the pont lies. The request to appoint Grobler was made in the name of Lo Bengula by three of his captains, whom he had sent for that purpose to Pretoria long before the date on which Mr. Moffat's treaty was concluded. Also our treaty, which is a renewal and confirmation of others, was before that time signed by the same delegates and confirmed by Lo Bengula. With respect to the treaty of Lo Bengula with Moffat in the name of Her Majesty's Government, I must inform your Excellency that, according to a report received, Lo Bengula denies ever having entered into such a treaty. Copies of correspondence on what has taken place are being sent to your Excellency.

Enclosure 7 in No. 33.

Telegram.

From High Commissioner to His Honour the State President, Pretoria.

25th.—Your Honour's telegram of 23rd. As I learn from several quarters that the collision took place well within the British Protectorate, I cannot concur in your Honour's proposal that the inquiry should take place by delegates from both sides. I will direct the Deputy High Commissioner in the Protectorate, Sir Sydney Shippard, if he can be spared from British Bechuanaland, to proceed at once to the spot and institute a full

inquiry, at which any delegates that your Honour may appoint can attend to watch the case, and all witnesses on both sides can be heard. I have already informed your Honour that if Khama's people are found to be in fault, they will be punished, and I rely upon your Honour to bring to justice any Transvaal subjects against whom primâ facie charges may be established. As to our treaty with Lo Bengula, which has been published to the world, and a copy furnished to your Honour, there is no doubt whatever. When I am favoured by your Honour with a perusal of the request and the Transvaal Matabele treaties to which you refer, I shall be able to judge of the validity of Mr. Grobler's appointment.

Enclosure 8 in No. 33.

Telegram.

From GOVERNOR to His Honour the ADMINISTRATOR, Vryburg.

24th July.—President Kruger telegraphs he is not astonished that Khama's account does not agree with that received by him. He proposes an inquiry should take place by delegates from both sides at the place where the pont lies on the Limpopo. I have replied that as I am informed from several sources that the collision took place well within the British Protectorate, I cannot agree in the proposal, but that I would request you, as the Deputy of the High Commissioner in the Protectorate, to proceed at once to the spot, if you can be spared from British Bechuanaland, and to institute a full inquiry into all the facts of the case. At this inquiry any delegates he may appoint can attend to watch the case,

and all witnesses on both sides can be heard. President Kruger adds that the request to appoint Grobler was made in Lo Bengula's name by three of his captains, who were sent to Pretoria for that purpose, and that these captains then made a treaty which was confirmed by Lo Bengula before the date of Mr. Moffat's treaty, which latter, he says he is informed, Lo Bengula denies ever having entered into. I have replied that as to our treaty, which has been published to the world, and a copy furnished to him, there is no doubt whatever, and that when I am favoured with a copy of his treaty, and the request to which he refers, I shall be able to judge of the validity of Grobler's appointment. If you can manage it, I should wish you to proceed as soon as you can conveniently to the spot and institute the inquiry referred to. You might be accompanied by an escort of as many police as can be spared. If you let me know the approximate date of your arrival I will inform the Transvaal Government. If you cannot leave please suggest who could best hold inquiry. If you can leave, who could act for you in your absence?

Enclosure 9 in No. 33.

Telegram.

From ADMINISTRATOR, Vryburg, to His Excellency the GOVERNOR, Cape Town.

24th July.—Following telegram just received from Chapman, Pont, Crocodile River. Begins: Serious troubles here about fighting taken place near Shashi, between Bamangwato and Dutch. Grobler seriously wounded (and) three others. Letter posted Ends.

O

No. 34.

SIR HERCULES ROBINSON TO LORD KNUTSFORD.

(Received August 15, 1888.)

Government House, Cape Town,
July 25, 1888.

My Lord,—With reference to my Despatch of the 18th instant,* I have the honour to enclose, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a letter received from Mr. Welby, clerk to the British Agent at Pretoria, covering a copy of a letter from the State Secretary of the South African Republic, communicating intelligence received from the men who accompanied Mr. Grobler to the Limpopo River.

I have, &c.
(Signed) Hercules Robinson,
High Commissioner.

The Right Hon. Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.,
&c., &c., &c., Colonial Office.

Enclosure in No. 34.

Mr. Welby to Captain Bower.

British Agency, Pretoria, South Africa Republic,
July 14, 1888.

Sir,—I have the honour to forward, for the information of His Excellency the High Commissioner, a copy of a letter received yesterday from the State Secretary, wherein he states that the men who accompanied Mr.

* No. 32.

Grobler as far as the river, for the purpose of conveying the pont, have returned, and have informed him that there are about thirty families of Boers near the pont on the Transvaal side of the river, which has perhaps given rise to the report of the massing of Boers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. E. WELBY,
Private Secretary.

Captain Graham Bower, R.N., C.M.G.,
&c., &c., &c., Imperial Secretary.

STATE SECRETARY, Pretoria, to BRITISH AGENT.

Translation.

Government Office, Pretoria, South Africa Republic,
July 11, 1888.

HON. SIR,—With reference to my letter dated 10th July last, I have the honour to bring the following also to your knowledge, namely, that the Government has to-day received information from their Consul Grobler, through the men who accompanied him to the river to transport the pont, and who have now all turned back, that the said consul arrived safely with the pont, that about 30 families are in the locality where the pont has now been laid within this Republic, and that this perhaps has given reason for the reports of massing of Boers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. EDUARD BOK,
State Secretary.

No 35.

THE BECHUANALAND EXPLORATION COMPANY TO COLONIAL OFFICE.

14, George Street, Mansion House, E.C.,
London, August 16, 1888.

Sir,—I have the honour most respectfully, as chairman of the Bechuanaland Exploration Company, Limited, to draw the Right Honourable the Secretary of State's attention to the recent invasion of Chief Khama's territory by Grobblaar, a representative of the Transvaal Government, accompanied by some soldiers (30 artillerymen) and Englishmen; this event occurred about the 13th July.

My reason for not drawing attention to the incident before was, because the full facts of the outrage had not been received from our agents in Bechuanaland.

It now appears that on or about the 13th July the Boers established a ferry on the Limpopo, South Macloutsie, and well in the protectorate, and that two persons, named respectively Francis and Chapman, encamped with their waggons in Khama's country without permission, which had previously been refused them. Khama's people warned them off, and they retreated to the middle of the river, but they called out for the Boers and stated that they would fight Khama for his Shashi Macloutsie country and divide it. Subsequently Grobblaar and Boers fired on Khama's men with some effect, and the fire was returned, Grobblaar and two Boers being wounded. The Boers then retreated. I beg most respectfully to point out that this occurred well in the protectorate, our advices say forty miles, Khama's territory extending to the Shashi river in the north.

The Commissioner has asked for assistance from our prospecting parties, which have been placed at his disposal.

Lobengula is taking no action, I believe, in the dispute, as he recognises the country as Khama's.

I venture to request that the invaded territory lying between the Macloutsie and Shashi rivers may be finally proclaimed as Khama's, in order to prevent any further misunderstanding, otherwise it is possible serious consequences may arise.

I beg most respectfully to request that the Secretary of State may be pleased to take this matter into his serious consideration, and, if deemed expedient, I venture to suggest that some reparation should be made to Khama by the offending parties, and to this company for the delay and loss they have been put to by this act of wanton aggression.

My company will be obliged if the Secretary of State will convey by telegram the sense of this communication to the High Commissioner at Cape Town.

I have, &c,

(Signed) GIFFORD,
Chairman.

Sir Robert Herbert, K.C.B.,
Under Secretary of State for the Colonies,
Downing Street, S.W.

No. 36.

COLONIAL OFFICE TO THE BECHUANALAND EXPLORATION COMPANY.

Downing Street, August 20, 1888.

MY LORD,—I am directed by Lord Knutsford to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th instant,*

* No. 35.

drawing attention to the recent collision, within the British Protectorate of Bechuanaland, between some of Khama's natives and Mr. Groblaar's party from the South African Republic.

I am to inform you in reply that the Deputy Commissioner for the Protectorate, Sir S. Shippard, K.C.M.G., started from Vryburg about the 27th ultimo, accompanied by an escort of mounted police, to conduct an enquiry into the matter.

I am to add that, pending the receipt of Sir S. Shippard's report, it would be premature for Lord Knutsford to express any opinion on the points raised in your letter.

I am, &c.

(Signed) JOHN BRAMSTON.

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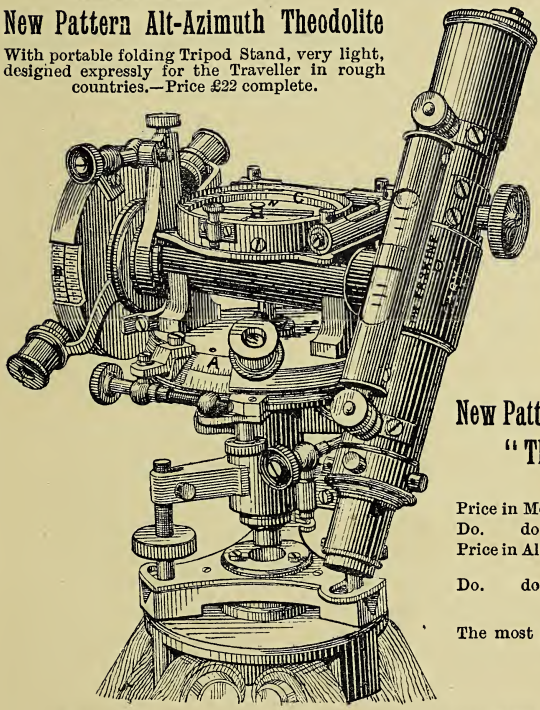
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